INTegrative Physiology - Master of Science (MS)

Physiology is the field of biology that deals with function in living organisms. The academic foundation of the department is the knowledge of how humans and animals function at the level of genes, cells, organs and systems. A graduate degree in integrative physiology provides opportunities for careers in academia, industry and the health professions.

Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program

Students may earn this degree as part of the Bachelor’s–Accelerated Master's (BAM) degree program, which allows currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time.

For more information, see the Accelerated Master's tab for the associated bachelor's degree(s): Integrative Physiology - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/integrative-physiology/integrative-physiology-bachelor-arts-ba/#acceleratedmasterstext)

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Entering graduate students must have an undergraduate preparation equivalent to the basic core curriculum requirements in integrative physiology at the University of Colorado or departmental approval of their academic preparation for graduate study.

All graduate applicants must have an introductory course in statistics or research design. In addition, students should have the knowledge base that would be obtained by completing human anatomy lecture, as well as human physiology lecture and lab courses.

Deficiencies

If the undergraduate preparation of a prospective graduate student is not adequate, the student may be allowed to pursue graduate study with the understanding that identified deficiencies will be completed. The graduate admissions committee will determine the nature and extent of these deficiencies.

Deficiencies in any area of the undergraduate major may be met by completing approved coursework in the subject at CU Boulder or at other institutions. All entering graduate students with deficiencies must satisfy at least one deficiency per semester until all deficiencies are satisfied. Graduate courses taken before removing deficiencies may be accepted for graduate degree credit only if prior approval of the graduate coordinator has been granted.

Course Requirements

Master's candidates entering the graduate program must complete 30 credits to graduate. They may select one of three options:

- Coursework only plan: 30 required credits to graduate
- Research project plan: 3 research project hours as part of the 30 required credits to graduate
- Thesis plan: 4 to 6 thesis hours as part of the 30 required credits to graduate

It is possible, however, to change from one option to another during the program of study.

Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in all graduate work taken, and must perform satisfactorily on the comprehensive exam.

Required Courses and Credits

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPHY 5100</td>
<td>Colloquium in Integrative Physiology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPHY 5800</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics and Research Methods in Integrative Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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Degree Plan Option

Select the coursework-only (0 credits), research project (3 credits) or thesis (4-6 credits) option.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPHY 6840</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>0-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPHY 6950</td>
<td>Master's Thesis</td>
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Electives

Elective coursework to fulfill the 30-credit minimum. 18-24

Total Credit Hours 30

Candidacy for Degree

Within the first semester of study, the student and mentor must prepare a program of study for the student. This program of study may be changed during the residence of the student with the approval of the mentor. It is the student’s responsibility to transfer the program of study to the Application for Admission to Candidacy form required for graduation. The Application to Candidacy is due no later than ten weeks prior to the defense of the thesis or research project. The original Application to Candidacy form should be submitted to the program assistant for review and approval.

Comprehensive Examination

All candidates are required to complete an examination (oral or written) covering the thesis or research project as well as coursework leading to the degree.