

# Master's along the Way in Biology

## (A Non-Thesis Biology MS Degree for IB PhD Students)

Students participating in the Integrative Biology PhD Program are eligible to earn a concurrent Master's Along the Way (MALW) in any amenable FAU MS program. Below are requirements for completion of the **Biology MALW**, a non-thesis option within the existing Biology MS Program.

It may be more appropriate for students working with PhD supervisors who are faculty within other departments/colleges to pursue a MALW through MS programs offered by those departments/colleges (e.g. College of Medicine's MS in Biomedicine, Department of Chemistry, and Biochemistry's MS in Chemistry). The onus is on the student to obtain advising related to completion of a MALW offered outside of the Department of Biological Sciences from that program directly and should work with both the Program Coordinator for their MS of interest and the IB Program Coordinator in order to ensure that requirements of both programs are met.

### **BIOLOGY MALW ELIGIBILITY**

- In order to be eligible to complete the non-thesis Biology MALW a student must be a current IB PhD student in good standing who has successfully completed the PhD Proposal and 36 credits that meet the criteria described below.

### **BIOLOGY MALW REQUIREMENTS**

- 36 Credits-Non-Thesis
- ½ (18) of these credits must be completed at the 6000 level or above in a single field of concentration or subdiscipline area (Biology) per the University catalog (which will include the following PhD Core courses)
  - 1. Scientific Communication (3) -(BSC 6846)
  - 2. Integrative Biology (3) -(BSC 6846)
  - 3. Experimental Design and Stats (4)-PCB 6456
  - Or
  - 4. Experimental Design 1 PSY 6206
- Up to 3 credits of DIS/IB Lab Rotation may be applied toward the non-thesis Biology MALW.
- Advanced Research in Integrative Biology credits (BSC 7978) maybe be used to fulfill degree requirements of the non-thesis Biology MALW. There is no limit on the number of BSC 7978 credits which may be applied toward completion of the Biology MALW at this time.

- Students must earn a B or better on all course work attempted.
- New IB PhD students must declare in their first semester a desire to do a MALW, and to plan course work accordingly (based on their sub-discipline) for completing the MALW and PhD Plans of Study (POS).
- The MALW POS must to be created and submitted one semester before the student plans to graduate with the MS Degree. After consultation with your advisor, complete and submit an electronic POS through the MyPOS electronic system. In the “General Information” area in MyPOS check the “Master’s-Along-TheWay” box.  
[http://www.fau.edu/graduate/forms-and-procedures/docs/Form\\_6\\_Plan\\_of\\_Study\\_for\\_the\\_Master\\_s\\_Degree\\_Form\\_II\\_INS.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/graduate/forms-and-procedures/docs/Form_6_Plan_of_Study_for_the_Master_s_Degree_Form_II_INS.pdf)
- Students must submit a formal MALW Application for Degree to the Graduate College by the appropriate deadline associated with the semester in which the degree is to be awarded (see application for degree deadlines on the Graduate College website).
- Comprehensive exams are required by MS biology students however, for IB PhD students participating the Biology MALW option, Comprehensive Exams will be substituted by successfully presenting & defending the PhD Proposal. Once the PhD Proposal has been successfully completed and the 36 course credits are completed, the student will be awarded the MALW degree.