The OSU Microbiology department offers a multidisciplinary graduate training program that encompasses field microbiology, pathogenic microbiology, cellular biology, and quantitative genome science. Research strengths within the department include aquatic animal disease (including coral reef health), genome evolution, microbiome science, and the global marine carbon cycle.

The department’s graduates find employment in biomedical sciences, agricultural microbiology, industry and basic research.
Graduate Student Support

- The Department of Microbiology awards scholarships and fellowships to outstanding students: [microbiology.oregonstate.edu/graduate-scholarships-and-fellowships](microbiology.oregonstate.edu/graduate-scholarships-and-fellowships)

- The University awards several graduate fellowships and scholarships to outstanding students. For more information see the Graduate School’s Financing Your Education website at [gradschool.oregonstate.edu/finance](gradschool.oregonstate.edu/finance).

- Graduate students may gain additional training through the OMSI Science Communication Fellowship program.

- Microbiology Graduate Student Association (MGSA) is a departmental club, aiming to support the interests of microbiology graduate students by promoting professional development opportunities, strengthening social community within the department, facilitating outreach events, and advocating for the interests of microbiology graduate students.

- GTA and GRA positions are offered each year on a competitive basis. The GTA appointment involves teaching in laboratory classes, helping with lab prep, and grading tests.

Program Requirements

- For students on the Non-thesis MS (NTM) tracks, there are 2 options; Microbiome Analytics and Biohealth Sciences. Each track requires that students take the MB graduate program core coursework in addition to 13 additional NTM core credits and 25 credits that are distinct for each option.

- Students in the MS and Ph.D. Thesis degree programs take the MB graduate program core coursework and 18 (MS) or 21 (PhD) credits relevant to their thesis research. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to directly contact professors whose research best fits the student’s interests to discuss trainee opportunities. Additional requirements include 1 term of graduate teaching, preliminary qualifying exam for Ph.D. candidates, and a final thesis seminar and defense.

For more information [microbiology.oregonstate.edu/graduate-admissions-information](microbiology.oregonstate.edu/graduate-admissions-information)

How to Apply

The online application, a downloadable application form, and contact information are available from the Graduate School. You may also write to the Graduate School, Oregon State University, 2900 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, Oregon 97331; telephone them at 541-737-4881, or email at graduate.school@oregonstate.edu.

A student wishing to be admitted to any graduate program at Oregon State University must complete an application form, pay the application fee, and submit photocopies of all official transcripts. International students must also submit recent TOEFL scores and certify sufficient funding to complete the required degree. The Office of Admissions provides [a more complete listing of required documents and application steps](microbiology.oregonstate.edu/graduate-admissions-information). Detailed information for both domestic applicants and international applicants is also available.

Alumni Spotlight

Kalyn Hubbard graduated from Oregon State University with a MS in Microbiology in 2019. Her thesis was based on disease ecology of macro parasites in the Deschutes River that affect Spring Chinook salmon.

She started working at InVivo Biosystems directly after graduating and is the project manager on the Zebrafish Transgenic team. Her day to day activities include transgenic design, team planning, and client communications.

She said, “the organizational, collaborative, and molecular biology skills I gained were highly transferable. I am grateful for the time I spent in the microbiology department and the opportunities that it brought.”