MA students will continue research they began as undergraduate students. This includes at least one summer of full-time research. MA students will pursue a thesis topic that addresses important scientific questions in the field. MA students will develop expertise in cutting edge methodologies in molecular biology and biochemistry, extensively read the literature relevant to their thesis project, and present their results at a departmental seminar. MA students often contribute their data towards publication of a co-authored, peer-reviewed journal article, but this is not a formal requirement for the degree.

CONCENTRATIONS

There are no formal tracks for the MA degree, although working within the lab of a participating faculty member will provide some of the same learning opportunities as described for the Molecular Biophysics and Informatics and Modeling programs.

THESIS AND DEFENSE

MB&B’s BA/MA and terminal MA students are expected to submit and orally defend a formal thesis document that describes the research they have carried out in partial fulfillment of the Master’s degree requirements. BA/MA students will select a thesis committee in the first semester of the MA year. The thesis committee will consist of their research advisor and two additional faculty members where at least one is from the MB&B department. Upon completing the research goals for the thesis, and in consultation with their thesis committee, students will complete their MA thesis document and schedule an oral defense. The thesis committee serves as the final examination committee that must approve the final written document and its defense.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please visit the department website (http://wesleyan.edu/mbb/grad_studies/).