

## Instructions for Filing Graduate Degree Plan

Revised August, 2010

The information below is provided to assist you in developing your Graduate Degree Plan (GDP) so that it will be accepted by the School of Graduate Studies. Once the plan has been submitted and approved it may be modified by petition. The GDP should be submitted after your first semester of grad school, preferably during your 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

Contact the secretary, Amy, at 309-298-1546 (or via email at [AR-Brown4@wiu.edu](mailto:AR-Brown4@wiu.edu)) for the necessary forms and basic technical assistance for developing your Graduate Degree Plan, or download the form from the Department's web site. Once you have submitted a signed GDP, the secretary will forward it for your advisor's signature (or for further editing as needed). After your advisor and graduate committee members have signed the GDP, it will be presented to the Department's Graduate Coordinator and then the School of Graduate Studies for approval.

### GDP Form Instructions:

1. Complete the personal information on the top portion of the form.
2. Degree sought: M.S.
3. Major Field: Biology
4. Option/Emphasis: Thesis or Non-Thesis
5. Courses:
  - a. Dept. - **List in alphabetical order** using the abbreviations BIOL, BOT, MICR, or ZOOL
  - b. No. - Within each Dept. list course numbers in **ascending order**; 400 level courses must be followed by a G
  - c. Course title - can be abbreviated if necessary as in the Schedule of Classes
  - d. Gr. And Instructor - Include those that have been completed at time of submission of the GDP
6. Deficiencies: leave blank – these are handled within the Department of Biology
7. TOTAL CREDITS IN MAJOR –

### Thesis Plan -

- 1) Graduate Core: (required)..... 9 sem hrs
  - Biol 501 (3) Biometrics
  - Biol 502 (3) Biomolecules or Biol 542 (3) Molecular Biol. Of Genes
  - Biol 503 (3) Biosystematics and Evolution
- 2) Electives: .....13 sem hrs
  - Any 400G or 500 level Biol, Bot, Micr, Zool or approved non-departmental or transfer courses.
  - Maximum number of sem. hrs. allowed from the following:
    - Biol 570 - 2
    - Approved non-departmental graduate courses - 6
    - Approved transfer course - 9

- 3) Thesis Related Courses: (required) ..... 10 sem hrs  
 Biol 576 (1) Survey of Biological Literature  
 Biol 600 (6) Thesis Research - max. of 6 hrs can count on degree plan, unlimited  
 hours can be taken  
 Biol 601 (3) Thesis

TOTAL 32 sem hrs

Non-Thesis Plan -

- 1) Graduate Core: (required) ..... 9 sem hrs  
 Biol 501 (3) Biometrics  
 Biol 502 (3) Biomolecules or Biol 542 (3) Molecular Biol of Genes  
 Biol 503 (3) Biosystematics and Evolution
- 2) Electives: ..... 19 sem hrs  
 Any 400G or 500 level Biol, Bot, Micr, Zool or approved non-departmental or transfer  
 courses.  
 Maximum number of sem. hrs. allowed from the following: Biol 570 - 2  
 Approved non-departmental graduate courses – 6  
 Approved transfer courses - 9  
 Biol 600, 601 **cannot** be used
- 3) Advanced Project Related Course: (required) ..... 4 sem hrs  
 Biol 576 (1) Survey of Literature  
 Biol 577 (3) Research Problems

TOTAL 32 sem hrs

NOTE: No more than 50% of semester hours may be at 400G level.