The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) offers a Doctor of Philosophy degree. The curriculum is designed to encourage maximum student choice and independence while maintaining a close student-advisor relationship. Students are encouraged to adopt a broad, integrative view of science and biological research. Course offerings cover such areas as animal and plant physiology, plant ecology, plant-animal interactions, population biology, structural and evolutionary biology, systematic biology, environmental toxicology, marine/estuarine ecology, and the biology of diverse groups of plants and animals. Students participate in an active departmental seminar program and informal research discussion groups.

Students accepted into the doctoral program are informally examined in Genetics, General Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology upon entry; based upon the results of that examination, the department makes recommendations as to the student’s future course of study. By the end of the second year all formal course work is usually completed. The doctoral degree normally requires four or five years of study leading to the production of a publishable dissertation.

Requirements
In addition to university-wide requirements for the PhD, the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology has the following requirements for its PhD students.

Annual Report and Progress
All graduate students who have been enrolled in the EEB Department for at least one semester must submit an annual report that briefly describes progress made during the previous calendar year (see Graduate Student Annual Report Form). Copies of this report must be submitted by January 25th to the student’s thesis or dissertation advisor and to the departmental secretary for faculty review and placement in the student’s departmental file. The Graduate Studies Committee and departmental faculty will review the annual reports to determine whether each student's progress has been satisfactory. Continued unsatisfactory progress is sufficient cause to revoke a teaching assistantship or terminate a student from the graduate program.

Journal Club
All Ph.D. graduate students must successfully complete two semesters of EBIO 6810 EEB Journal Review (1 c.h.), and all Masters degree students must complete one semester of EBIO 6810 EEB Journal Review (1 c.h.). The course is offered each fall semester. Thus, Ph.D. students are expected to complete this requirement during their first two years of study, and all Masters degree students are expected to complete the requirement during the first year of study. This requirement is revised effective 2007 fall semester; all Ph.D. students who enrolled in the graduate program prior to this time and have not completed the former four-semester requirement will be required to complete three semesters of EBIO 6810 EEB Journal Review (1 c.h.).