The online master of science degree in Biology at the University of Saint Joseph is ideal for working professionals who cannot be constrained by a traditional course schedule. Through our Internet-based program, students fit courses around their work and home schedules, completing a master’s degree in Biology within two or three years.

“Any teacher seeking a master’s in Biology should not look any further than the online program at the University of Saint Joseph. It is truly exceptional.”
– Margaret Lynn Smith Science Department Chair
Lancaster High School
Lancaster, Virginia

“Before I joined the program I was just an average student with a biology major. After the completion of my M.S. degree I realized for the first time my fullest potential. Yes! Saint Joseph is the right place to be!”
– Ram S. Aryal M’09
International Student
Nepal

www.usj.edu/graduate

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions.

DIRECTIONS
The University of Saint Joseph is located in West Hartford, Connecticut off I-84, exit 43/Park Road. Turn right at the end of the ramp, then take an immediate left at the first light onto Trout Brook Drive. At the fifth light, turn right onto Asylum Avenue then take the first left into the The University of Saint Joseph campus.

University of Saint Joseph
Connecticut
School of Health and Natural Sciences
1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117
www.usj.edu

ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAM:
Masters of Science in Biology
A COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM
This 30-credit degree can include courses with a molecular biology approach or an organismal/ecological focus, in addition to courses that are medically oriented. Some of the special topics courses are designed so students can focus on their own areas of interest within the general subject matter of that course. You will design your own curriculum in collaboration with the program director to make your coursework particularly relevant to you and your own professional goals. Students typically take two to three years to complete their M.S. degree while working full-time jobs. The certificate program in Emerging Diseases can be completed in two terms.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Graduates have gone on to careers in research and education at Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Hartford Hospital, the University of Connecticut Health Center, and other sites, while others have pursued doctoral degrees. Alumni have also been accepted into medical schools and physician assistant programs. Many were promoted in their present careers.

KEY FEATURES OF OUR ONLINE COURSES
The online courses utilize a variety of pedagogies and learning tools. These include: open discussions among students and faculty; directed collaboration in small groups; case studies; problem-solving strategies; essay writing; peer review; video and audio lectures; and graphic presentation of materials. No two classes are exactly alike. Just as in face-to-face classes, each professor has their own style of teaching that sets the tone for the course.

Threaded discussion: The threaded discussion allows students to answer questions posed by the instructor, and then build upon those answers. Thus, a dialogue is created not only between instructor and student, but also among students in a cooperative venture.

Frequent assessment of the material: Feedback from faculty ensures that students are cognizant of the material and what they need to do in order to expand their understanding. Students generally receive more individual attention via the discussion group and e-mail than those in classroom-based graduate courses.

Note that online courses are not “correspondence courses.” The rapidity of the communication requires full attention and can be intense. Studies show that online education often requires more work than an on-site course due to the greater level of attention given to the student. Because of the rigorous nature of distance learning courses, students in the online program are limited to two courses per semester unless approval is obtained from the program director. Students must keep pace with the assigned material to avoid falling behind. Although the courses are asynchronous (no one has to be at the same place in the curriculum at the same time), the timeline must be maintained to prevent the workload from accumulating. This course format will not work for students who lack discipline.

NON-THESIS OPTION
This option consists of 30 credits (typically 10 courses). Up to six graduate credits of related course work may be accepted from another academic department or program at the discretion of the program director.

A comprehensive examination is required after completing 24 credits of Biology course work at the University.

THESIS OPTION
In this option, the graduate level Statistics course and BIOL598 Master’s Thesis Research are required as part of the 30 credits. This option is for a limited number of students who must receive prior approval of their research proposal by a thesis supervisor. Students in the thesis option will present and defend their thesis as a culminating activity in addition to a written comprehensive examination.

COURSES
Courses are offered on a wide range of topics including:
• Genetics
• Pharmacology
• Biotechnology
• Bacteriology
• Toxicology
• Neuroscience
• Ecology
• Cell Biology
• Epidemiology
• Virology
• Parasitology
• Emerging Diseases

A complete course listing can be found on our website at www.usj.edu/gradbiology.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
• An admission application, available at www.usj.edu/graduate
• $50 application fee
• Sealed transcript of your bachelor’s degree in Biology or a related field from a regionally-accredited institution (Minimum GPA - 3.0)
• Three letters recommending you for graduate work at the University of Saint Joseph
• NO GRE or other exam required

NEXT STEPS
• Submit an application
• Visit www.usj.edu/graduate to access the latest graduate catalog or to register for upcoming events.
• E-mail the graduate office with general questions about the programs at graduate@usj.edu.
• Visit our website – www.usj.edu/gradbiology – for course information and registration.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
University of Saint Joseph
1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117
860.231.5261 / Fax: 860.231.5479 / graduate@usj.edu

“As a high school teacher seeking rigorous graduate-level coursework in Biology, the master’s program at the University of Saint Joseph exceeded my expectations. The courses were suitably demanding and highly interactive, often with lively online discussions prompted by thoughtful questions posed by attentive instructors.”

– John Vellardito M’08, High School Biology Teacher and UConn Early College Experience Adjunct Professor