Professional Degree in Biotechnology

The Need: University graduates may have the knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen field, yet the transition from the university environment to the world of work can involve a period of adjustment. It can take time for a student to adapt to a typical industry environment because it’s so different from the university setting.

Serving the Need: The Masters in Microbial Biotechnology program was created in N.C. State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in response to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries' need for a workforce trained in both science and corporate culture. The program gives students a taste of the world in which they wish to work. N.C. State faculty work in concert with respected industry professionals to develop a curriculum that gives students the knowledge they need and shows them how to use that knowledge in an industry environment. Industry professionals are involved not only in developing the curriculum but also in teaching courses. Corporate training takes place at various companies working as partners with the university in offering MMB students a four-semester course in industry case studies. Corporate partners have included GSK, Dupont, Novozymes, Wyeth, Monsanto, Diosynth, Biolex, Embrex and Ensolve Biosystems.

Impact beyond North Carolina: The program has been received with enthusiasm by students as well as university and industry leaders. Through this program, N.C. State and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are providing the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries with a better-prepared, industry-ready workforce while simultaneously creating important university-industry networks. Program graduates have both the scientific and industrial knowledge they’ll need to succeed; interpersonal, communications and networking skills; and an entrepreneurial mindset.

For more information, contact: Dr. Lis Hamer, Department of Microbiology, 919-513-7206 or lis_hamer@ncsu.edu