

GRADUATE PROGRAMS APPLICATION CHECKLIST THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Application Process and Recommended Deadlines

Applications for Fall acceptance may be completed as late as **May 15**, but completing your application by **February 1** ensures full consideration for assistantship funding. For Spring admission, applications should have been completed by **October 15**, and funding opportunities are usually more limited than for fall admission. You must contact potential faculty advisors and discuss your research interests. Please review our departmental website for individual faculty interests. Send all application materials to the School of Graduate Studies, including departmental forms and School of Graduate Studies forms. It is always advisable to send a second copy of your application materials to the Department of Biology so we begin the process of evaluating your application as quickly as possible.

Master's Degrees

The Department Biology offers a M.S. thesis and a M.S. non-thesis, and both involve a research component. They have different requirements for admission and graduate assistantships are available only for the M.S. thesis degree program. The M.S. non-thesis degree has no assistantship funding available. The following must be received before an applicant can be considered:

- Application form (Please use the School of Graduate Studies form)
- Application fee
- Transcripts from all colleges attended
- Official GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation (Please use Biology Department form)
- M.S. non-thesis indicated on the application form
- Name of faculty member contacted about being your advisor

The M.S. thesis degree has competitively-based assistantship funding available. The following must be received before the applicant can be considered:

- All items listed above for the M.S. non-thesis degree, with M.S. thesis indicated on the application form
- Official GRE scores (500 each, Verbal, Quantitative, Analytical; minimum 1550 total score)
- Curriculum Vitae (Please use Biology Department form)

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The most advanced graduate degree offered by the Department of Biology is the Ph.D. The following must be received before an applicant can be considered:

- Ph.D. indicated on the application form
- All items listed for the M.S. thesis, except that five (5) letters of recommendation are required

International Students

In addition to the above needed materials for the appropriate degree desired, the following information also must be received by the Graduate School from international students:

- TOEFL score, official score reported by ETS
- Affidavit of Financial Support (School of Graduate Studies form)

Teaching Assistantships and Tuition Waivers

Applicants that will be considered for a teaching assistantship and/or tuition waiver are those applying for the M.S. thesis and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Funding levels of assistantships include a tuition waiver and a 12-month competitive stipend (please contact the department to determine current stipend and tuition funding levels).

Research Assistantships and Tuition Waivers

Several research assistantships and tuition waivers are available through grants and contracts received by our faculty members. Please contact individual Biology Dept. faculty for information about availability.