



Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Q: What is the application deadline for Fall 2010 admission?**
A: December 1, 2009.
- 2. Q: Are scholarships or financial aid available?**
A: The department provides financial support, as well as tuition, fee, and health waivers for all students admitted into our doctoral program.
- 3. Q: Do you accept the computer, paper, and Internet based GRE test scores?**
A: Yes, our department will continue to accept computer, paper, and Internet based GRE scores.
- 4. Q: Is the GRE subject test required? Will my application be reviewed without it?**
A: Our department does require the GRE Subject test, in either Biochemistry, Biology or Chemistry. We will accept your application without the score; however, your file will not be reviewed in the same time frame as completed applications.
- 5. Q: What are the minimum GRE scores you will accept?**
A: The department does not have minimum scores. The GRE scores represent just one part of the criteria used to evaluate you for admission into the program.
- 6. Q: What are the MSU Biochemistry and Molecular Biology GRE codes?**
A: GRE Institution code is R1465 (so 1465 is MSU.)
GRE Department code is 0202 (biochemistry, under biological sciences.)
- 7. Q: What are the MSU Biochemistry and Molecular Biology TOEFL codes?**
A: TOEFL Institution code is 1465.
TOEFL Department code is 34.
- 8. Q: What are the minimum TOEFL scores you will accept?**
A: The department does not have minimum scores. The TOEFL score represents just one part of the criteria used to evaluate you for admission into the program. The University has minimum requirements. These are: Paper-based test: 550 with no subscore below 52. Computer-based test: 213 with no subscore below 18. Internet-based: 80 with no subscore below 17.
- 9. Q: What is the process for reviewing applications from the People's Republic of China?**
A: Our normal practice is to review applications upon completion. If an applicant is found to be competitive, they will be forwarded to a consortium designated the CUSBA (China-United States Biochemistry Admissions) where they will be interviewed and recommended for admission from a CUSBA representative. These interviews are usually held in March. Decisions to be made in April 2010.
- 10. Q: How many applications do you receive each year?**
A: We average ~150 applications per year.

continued

11. Q: How many students are accepted?

A: We admit 10-12 students per year. The numbers are strictly based on the most competitive applicants - both domestic and international.

12. Q: When will I know if I have been accepted or not?

A: Most applicants will be notified by April 15th. We notify all applicants whether they are accepted or declined.

13. Q: Item 22 of the MSU Application for Admission to Graduate Study asks for Academic and Personal Statements. Are separate statements required?

A: No. You may choose to describe your experiences in the two separate categories or you may choose to combine the two into a single "personal statement of purpose." The most important point is that we would like to learn about any research experience that you may have gained, either in school or through employment. Tell us about the objective of the study, the experimental approach, results and interpretations, major conclusions, and future directions or difficulties encountered. Usually, this description would fit most appropriately under the academic statement. Then in the personal statement, you can briefly describe other life experiences, including social, economic, cultural, and familial opportunities or challenges.