

**Conditional Admission into the Graduate Degree Program of the  
Master of Science – Cell and Molecular Biology (MSCMB)  
For International, non-US –Educated, or Late Applicants**

**I. Students must be admitted into the Graduate College of Missouri State University:**

All students must meet the graduate admission requirements set forth by the Graduate College of Missouri State University. Information and Graduate College application materials are available at: <http://graduate.missouristate.edu> International students must meet the requirements for international student admission through the Office of International Student Services at <http://www.missouristate.edu/International/>. Applicants whose primary language is not English are required to submit a score from TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). This score must be at least 550 on the paper-based, or a comparable score of 213 on the computer-based, with a minimum score at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Listening Comprehension Section. Applicants who do not meet the TOEFL requirement must initially enroll full time in the English Language Institute, <http://ccpe.missouristate.edu/eli/>, on the Missouri State University campus.

**II. Students must be admitted into a specific degree program that may have more stringent requirements:**

Students who are admitted into the Graduate College of Missouri State University must also be admitted into a specific degree program. Students not admitted into a specific degree program may be admitted to the Graduate College under various admission categories: Unclassified, Non-Degree-Seeking, Post Master's, or Postbaccalaureate. The student should refer to the current *Missouri State University Graduate Catalog* for distinctions among these admission categories. Admission requirements into specific degree programs differ depending on the program. If admitted, all admissions into the Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology are conditional on academic performance during the first semester of study. The conditions for continued retention in the degree program are outlined in Section IV below.

**III. Admission Criteria into the Master of Science – Cell and Molecular Biology Program (MSCMB) for international students:**

The following admission criteria are used for admission decisions for international students into the MSCMB program. Students who demonstrate levels at or near these criteria will be given serious consideration for admission. Exceeding the level in one or two areas may compensate for a lower level in other areas. In addition, the applicant's statement of intent, career goals, "program fit", and reference letters, are considered in the admission decision. The number of students accepted into the program each semester is also limited by facilities and faculty. The criteria that are listed below may be adjusted higher or lower as determined by the number of students that can be accommodated in the program.

Undergraduate Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.25  
TOEFL (computer) score of 250  
TOEFL Essay rating of 4.0  
GRE Writing section score of 420 or higher  
GRE Quantitative section total score of 680 or higher  
GRE Writing Sample of 3.5 or higher.

**IV. Continued retention into the degree program of the Master of Science – Cell and Molecular Biology (MSCMB):**

The Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology program prepares graduate students to initiate, execute, and complete an independent laboratory research project in a timely fashion under the direction of a graduate faculty member. Because of the requirement for close faculty mentoring in a laboratory environment, admission into this program is competitive and based on performance the criteria listed above. Students admitted into the Graduate College of the University do not automatically qualify for admission into the MSCMB program. During the first full semester in the department, the graduate faculty will assess the knowledge, skills, and work habits of admitted students to determine the potential to be a successful graduate student in the program. Retention in the MSCMB degree program also requires superior performance in graduate course work. Such assessment is made by the graduate faculty after a semester's record of course work in the department. Students who meet these conditions may transfer no more than nine hours of graduate credit that will apply to the MSCMB program. Part-time, non-US-educated, and international students who are required to complete course work in the English Language Institute (ELI) may require two semesters or more before meeting all of the requirements listed below.

**V. Minimal admission standards and conditions that must be fulfilled with conditional continued retention into the MSCMB program:**

1. US-educated students should present a Graduate Record Examination composite score of 1000 (currently a total of two sub scores) and a minimum of 3.5 on the writing sample preferred) before being considered for admission into the degree program. If the GRE has not been taken before admission, the student will be admitted on a conditional status as outlined in this document. Students must take GRE by the middle of the first semester of enrollment and achieve a score of 1000 or higher to be considered for retention the MSCMB degree program. Additional conditional requirements for degree program admission may be specified by the Program Director for promising students who score below 1000.

**Non-US-educated students and international students** must present GRE scores with their application materials and should have a composite score at or above 1100 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE. The score on the verbal section should be at least 420.

**Non-US-educated students and international students** with verbal scores on the GRE below 350 may be admitted to the Graduate College and required to take a proficiency test at the English Language Institute at Missouri State University to determine their English language proficiency in the areas of writing/grammar, speaking/listening, and reading. Students achieving a “level 5” proficiency in all three areas of English language proficiency will be permitted to enroll in courses in the MSCMB program. Students achieving proficiency in two of the three areas must enroll in the appropriate component in the English Language Institute, but will be permitted to enroll in 3-6 hours of course work in the MSCMB program during the first semester. Students achieving proficiency in fewer than two areas must complete the English Language Institute before enrolling in course work in the MSCMB program. Students enrolled in courses in the English Language Institute (ELI) will be considered ELI students during that semester.

2. All applicants are required to submit a completed Applicants Research Interest form and submit three letters of recommendation. These forms, along with other information, may be downloaded in pdf format at: <http://www.missouristate.edu/bms/MSCMB.html>
3. International students who have been conditionally admitted in MSCMB must enroll in a minimum of nine credit hours during the initial fall and/or spring semester to remain in the status as an F-1 student. During the first semester, these and other conditionally admitted students must enroll in at least three BMS courses at the graduate level for which a letter grade is earned. These courses must be approved by the Program Director. The MSCMB Program Director will specify the appropriate courses, one of which includes BMS 521 Molecular Cell Biology. Students enrolled for 9 credit hours must earn a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.44; students enrolled for 10 credit hours must earn a minimum GPA of 3.50. As a part of their semester course load, the student must enroll in, participate, and complete BMS 630, a weekly journal club course for one credit hour during the first semester.
4. During the first semester, the student must explore the various laboratory research options in the department. By the end of the first semester, a research plan must be developed and approved by a graduate faculty mentor who agrees to direct and sponsor the student’s research. Upon acceptance by a mentor, the student will be re-assigned to that faculty member as the student’s advisor.
5. Depending on the student's record, additional conditions and requirements may be listed by the MSCMB Program Director or by the student’s graduate advisor for those students who are determined to have other deficiencies.
6. Upon arrival on campus, the student will meet with the Graduate Program Director for the MSCMB program and sign a memorandum indicating the student’s understanding and agreement to these conditions specified for retention into the MSCMB degree program after the first semester.

**VI. Limitations of graduate credit hours that can be transferred before admission to the degree program:**

If the appropriate conditions as determined by the graduate faculty are met, non-US-educated students, international students with student visas, late application US students, and others seeking admission will be considered for MSCMB degree program admission during, but by the end of, the second semester of enrollment. Students not yet admitted into the degree program can apply 9 hours of completed coursework to the MSCMB degree program upon admission.

**VII. Limitations of performance as a graduate student in a degree program:**

All students are expected to meet all general conditions and requirements set forth by the Missouri State University Graduate College for continuance in a graduate program in the University. Students who do not meet the conditions of acceptance during their first semester, under extraordinary conditions, may be permitted to enroll for classes during the second semester.

**VIII. Considerations of financial assistance:**

There are no guarantees of financial support for any student seeking admission to or for those accepted into the MSCMB program. Limited, non-teaching, graduate assistantships may be available at sites across campus during the second or third semester. Students applying for such assistantships are responsible for applying for them on their own. When available, non-U.S. students, with eligibility approval for a teaching assistantship, may apply for teaching assistantships in the Biomedical Sciences Department. The number of available graduate assistantships in the Department of Biomedical Sciences is limited and graduate assistantships are offered on a competitive basis with more applicants than positions. The MSCMB Program has no obligation to provide financial assistance to the students accepted into the program.

International and out-of-state students who have an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.25 are automatically eligible for the Missouri Outreach Graduate Opportunity Scholarship (MOGO). Students eligible for this scholarship pay the in-state fees plus only 25% of the out-of-state fees. This is a considerable savings for students who are admitted to the MSCMB program, but who are not considered Missouri residents at the time of application. This scholarship is restricted to students who were admitted to eligible graduate programs beginning in August 2006.

If you have specific questions concerning admission into the MSCMB degree program, contact the MSCMB program director [AlbertGordon@MissouriState.edu](mailto:AlbertGordon@MissouriState.edu)

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