Successful completion of the core curriculum and satisfactory performance in conducting scientific research and teaching will qualify students for continuation in the PhD program.

Comprehensive Examination
All PhD program students must pass a comprehensive examination before the end of the first semester of the third year of enrollment. The usual format of the comprehensive exam includes the writing and oral defense of a research proposal outside of the student's dissertation research area.

Dissertation
Each student must then carry out a dissertation research project, original in nature, which is expected to contribute significant new knowledge to the area of study. To facilitate this process, each student submits a dissertation research proposal within six months of passing the comprehensive examination.

Oral Defense
Finally, all PhD candidates must pass an oral defense of the dissertation and comply with all university and departmental regulations governing the PhD degree.

Admissions
Application Deadlines
Fall deadline: December 15

Admission Criteria
• Minimum GPA: 3.0 in the last 60 hours
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college
• Background in biology and chemistry and an understanding of mathematics and physics
• Course work in biochemistry and physiology is highly recommended
• Previous lab or research experience preferred
• Minimum English proficiency scores, one of the following (International applicants only):
  • TOEFL Test Of English as Foreign Language (internet based) = 80
  • IELTS International English Language Testing System (overall academic score) = 6.5
  • PTE Pearson Test of English = 59
  • C1A Cambridge C1Advanced = 180
  • Duolingo English Test = 105

Students are usually admitted to begin their program in the Fall semester. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Students with an appropriate educational background are encouraged to apply for entrance into the PhD program. A master’s degree is not a prerequisite for admission to the doctoral program. Deficiencies in course work may be remedied during the first years of the graduate program.

An application submitted through the University of Missouri Graduate School. The application will include the following:
1. Copies or official copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
2. Three letters of recommendation - written by individuals with knowledge of the student's academic capability
3. Statement of Purpose - Provide in 400 words or less a brief
description of research experience (abstract and paper citations
preferred) and a statement of how the (M.S./Ph.D.) program will
facilitate your career goals.

4. International students must submit copies or official copies of
English proficiency test scores from either the TOEFL, IELTS, PTE,
Cambridge C1 Advanced, or Duolingo examinations. MU's minimum
test scores are:
  • TOEFL 80 (internet-based)
  • IELTS 6.5 (academic)
  • PTE 59
  • Cambridge C1 Advanced 180
  • Duolingo 105

Admission Contact Information
Lisa Putting
MA415 Medical Sciences Bldg, DCO63.00
Columbia, MO 65212
puttingl@health.missouri.edu
573-882-4957