

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our graduate program. In order to pursue the **Master of Science Degree in Biology**, you must make separate applications to and be accepted by both the University and the Department of Biological Sciences. For information about admission to the University contact the Office of Enrollment Services, (562) 985-5471.

International Students must contact the Office of International Admissions, (562) 985-5476. Send the University application, www.csumentor.edu, application fee, one set of official transcripts, etc., directly to the Office of Admissions and Records by February 1st.

The departmental application deadline is: February 1st for the following Fall Semester.

When applying to the Department of Biological Sciences for admission into our master's program, you must send the following items directly to me:

1. **Completed Departmental Application Form.**
2. **A one page essay describing why the applicant wishes to obtain an M.S. degree in Biology at CSULB and how this relates to her/his career objectives.**
3. **Transcripts from each university/college attended.** (*CSULB graduates must also send transcript.*)
4. **Three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your academic performance and research potential.** (*If applying for a TA position, the letters must refer to your qualifications for the position.*)
5. **Official report of the scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) GENERAL Test. This test must have been taken prior to applying to the Department. Students who do not have a degree in Biology (or a related field approved by the Department) must also take the GRE Subject Test in Biology or the Subject Test in Biochemistry, Cell, and Molecular Biology.** (*No other test can be used to replace the GRE.*)

Entrance into the graduate program is competitive; grade point averages, the scores on the GRE Test, and the strength of the letters of recommendation are considered. In addition, it is your responsibility to communicate with our faculty as soon as possible to assess the potential availability of a thesis advisor. You must have a commitment from a thesis advisor before the Department Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) considers offering acceptance into the program.

A limited number of teaching and graduate assistantships are available from semester to semester depending upon the qualifications of the applicant, undergraduate enrollment and available funding. Unfortunately, other sources of financial aid are very limited.

After the GSC reviews your folder and makes a decision concerning your admission, you will be informed in writing of the action taken.

Sincerely,

Kay Belletti
Graduate Office
Department of Biological Sciences
kbellett@csulb.edu