

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our graduate program in Microbiology. The **Master of Science in Microbiology** is an academic degree designed for individuals who desire to pursue research, teaching, and/or industrial careers in microbiology. In addition to course work, the student will participate in original research culminating in a written thesis, its defense, and a public presentation.

Applications to the University and information on admission requirements may be requested from the Office of Enrollment Services, (562) 985-5471. If you are an International Student, contact International Admissions, (562) 985-5476. Send the University application and fee, one set of official transcripts, etc., directly to the Office of Admissions and Records. Students can also apply, by March 15<sup>th</sup>, to CSULB online at [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu).

The departmental application deadline is: March 15 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 Microbiology 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 you are 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 to assess the potential availability of a thesis advisor; if you are eventually accepted, you must have a thesis advisor by the beginning of the fall semester.

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.

Sincerely,

Kay Belletti  
Graduate Office  
Department of Biological Sciences  
[kbellett@csulb.edu](mailto:kbellett@csulb.edu)