What academic background do I need to apply?

Most entering graduate students have completed an undergraduate major in biological sciences that includes college level courses in chemistry, physics and mathematics. The Department also welcomes applications from students with less traditional backgrounds. We encourage prior research experience and a strong academic record. We also request you contact at least three faculty in your area of interest and follow our application instructions:

http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/biologicalsciences/grad/upload/Biology_Graduate_Application_Instructions.pdf

When is the application deadline?

Students are admitted for fall semester only and the deadline is January 1 for Domestic and International applicants.

What is the minimum GPA?

The minimum GPA requirement by the UWM Graduate School is 2.75 for the two most recent years of study. Applicants below a 2.75 must provide evidence of ability to succeed in graduate program. The Department of Biological Sciences prefers your GPA to be 3.0 or higher. High grades in science coursework will help your application.

What can I do to improve my chances for admission?

Gaining field or lab research experience and including an evaluation of it in your letters of recommendation will enhance your application. If your GPA is low, we recommend taking graduate level courses after your Bachelor’s degree to demonstrate your ability to succeed at the graduate level.

Do I need to take a GRE subject test?

The Department of Biological Sciences does not require a GRE subject test.

What are the GRE and TOEFL codes for this program?

The institution code for both tests is 1473 and the department code for the GRE is 0203.

What are the minimum GRE scores you require?

We recommend that your GRE scores are at least in the 50th percentile in each section of the exam (Verbal, Quantitative, Writing).

Are there any forms that should accompany the recommendation letters?

There are no forms. Your referees should write letters describing your qualifications for graduate school and send them directly to the Department of Biological Sciences (see application instructions).

What are the requirements for english proficiency for International Students?

UWM requires a minimum TOEFL score of 550, IELTS speaking score of 7.0, or iBT score of 79. The Department of Biological Sciences also requires a minimum score of 23 on the Speak portion of the iBT test. Please refer to this link for more detailed information on International Application Requirements: http://www4.uwm.edu/cie/futurestudents/69/
Do you offer an M.S. degree?

Yes. The MS program also is a research degree that includes a written thesis.

Do I need to have an M.S. degree before applying to the doctoral program?

No. Many of our students go directly from a Bachelor’s degree to the Ph.D.

What financial aid is available?

US and International graduate students will receive funding through Teaching, Project or Research Assistantships as well as competitive campus-wide fellowships. Teaching Assistantships are guaranteed for 3 years for MS students and 5 years for PhD students. Besides the salary, the Teaching Assistantship also provides eligibility for university supported health insurance and includes tuition remission, except for student segregated fees, and a bus pass.

Can I get health insurance?

All TA, RA and PA are eligible for university supported health insurance benefits. Other plans are available for students not supported by this Assistantships.

How can I check to see if my application is complete?

Your application is in two parts. The online application and transcripts go to the Graduate School and you can see if that portion of your application is complete by checking your PAWS account that was set up when you applied. The second part of your application includes the Letters of Recommendation and GRE scores that are sent to the Department of Biological Sciences directly. To see if we have received these components of your application, you need to contact the Department of Biological Sciences Program Assistant at 414-229-5137. You may also email biosci@uwm.edu with a subject line indicating that you are checking the status of your application.

I am a domestic applicant. Do I need to send in hard copies of my application materials?

Yes. The UWM Graduate School requires official copies of your transcripts as part of the application process.

I am an international applicant. Do I need to send in hard copies of my application materials?

Yes, you must send official transcripts. Official records must be submitted in the native language and must be accompanied by an official English translation.

How many applications do you receive each year?

We receive approximately 80-90 applications per year; approximately 15-20 applicants receive offers of admission.

If I apply to the Department of Biological Sciences, am I allowed to apply to other UWM graduate programs?

Yes. You may apply to as many graduate programs as you wish. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee does charge a separate application fee for each program.