

Graduate Studies in Plant Biology at SIUC Information About Application for Admission

Below you will find materials and information to use in applying for admission into the Department of Plant Biology Graduate Program.

NOTE: In order to expedite the handling of applications for admission, all required materials are to be returned directly to the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Plant Biology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6509. **NO MATERIALS ARE TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL.** The required materials include:

1. Completed application form entitled 'Application for Admission to Graduate Study' (this will be sent to you upon receipt of the >Dual Application for Admission and Financial Support= requested below).
2. A set of official transcripts sent directly from the Registrar of **each** school attended during previous as well as any current degree programs [note that these must be sent to the Department of Plant Biology directly from the office of the Registrar of the school(s) involved].
3. A minimum of three letters of reference sent directly from referees whom you ask to write in your behalf.
4. An official copy of GRE scores sent directly from ETS (the SIU ETS number is 1726; the Department number is 0205).
5. Also, (if required) an official copy of TOEFL scores sent to the Department of Plant Biology directly from ETS. Students for whom English is not the native or first language must take the TOEFL exam no more than one year before first registration and earn a score of 600 (Graduate School requires 550) or better.
6. Print the >Dual Application for Admission and Financial Support= form (available on this web site) complete and mail to the address above. Be sure to provide complete data (e.g. GRE, degrees, etc.) and **write a short paragraph** in the space provided on the back of the form (Areas of Interest) setting out your goals and intentions.
7. A check in the amount of \$20.00 (application fee) made out to Southern Illinois University.
8. Upon receipt of the completed >Dual Application for Admission and Financial Support= form, we will send additional information about our program, the Department and the University.

**ONLY WHEN WE HAVE ALL THESE MATERIALS IN HAND WILL WE
CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION.**

The names of faculty members in this Department as well as their areas of research emphasis will be mailed to you upon receipt of your application materials and you are encouraged to communicate with any faculty member directly (see list of recent publications on this web site).

Graduate Studies in Plant Biology at SIUC
Information About Admission Criteria and Financial Assistance

Criteria for admission must include a satisfactory academic record. If you are applying for the M.Sc. Degree, your undergraduate grade point average must equal or exceed 2.7 (A=4.0); for a Ph.D. degree, your graduate grade point average must equal or exceed 3.25 (A=4.0). The sum of the Verbal and Quantitative scores will be compared with your GPA on a sliding scale based on the tables shown below to determine admissibility. If the TOEFL is required, the score must equal or exceed 600 (Graduate School requires 550). In addition, good recommendations from referees are expected.

Scales used in determining admissibility (GRE scores below are the sum of Verbal + Quantitative):

Master of Science		Doctor of Philosophy	
GRE	GPA	GRE	GPA
1000	2.70	1000	3.25
960	2.90	960	3.40
920	3.10	920	3.55
885	3.30	880	3.70
845	3.50	840	3.85
808	3.70	800	4.00
750	4.00		

For example: If you are seeking a Master of Science degree and your undergraduate GPA is 2.90, the sum of your GRE Verbal plus GRE Quantitative scores must equal or exceed 960.

There is an option available to qualified applicants for direct entry into the doctoral program from an undergraduate degree without first earning a Master of Science degree. Information is available in the Graduate Catalog.

Remember that admission requires not only that all the criteria noted above are met but also requires that staff and facilities be available in the Department to adequately support anticipated studies and research. There must be a faculty member available who will agree to serve as major professor. Limited facilities may well preclude admission even though other criteria are met. Before you file a formal application be sure that you meet the criteria indicated.

There are several types of financial assistance available to graduate students.

Type 1 is the Teaching Assistantship which requires 20 hours of work assignment. The application deadline is 1 March for the Autumn Semester following. Teaching Assistantships are not readily available for Spring Semester entry.

Type 2 is the Graduate School Fellowship for which the department application deadline is usually about January 25th for the Autumn Semester following.

Type 3 is the Research Assistantship which is dependent upon individual faculty research grants and would have to be negotiated with the individual faculty member.

We are unable to consider most international students for Teaching Assistantships because of State of Illinois language requirements. Those who might be considered must have a TOEFL Score equal to or greater than 600 (Graduate School requires 550) and must pass an oral examination administered on campus. Teaching Assistantships are contingent on passing the on-campus, oral examination.