

What can an applicant do to be most competitive?

Begin the application process early. Allow plenty of time for lost documents, slow references, complicated visa arrangements, etc. Be proactive in ensuring that your application is complete (see Application Checklist). An incomplete application may not disqualify you, but it significantly hurts your chances. We get good applicants to choose from.

Contact research faculty members. Find out if there is a faculty member you want to work with, and if that faculty member will accept you into his/her laboratory. All things being equal, a candidate who has already been accepted into a research lab will beat one who has not. Remember: acceptance into the Program does not guarantee acceptance into a research lab. And acceptance into a research lab does not guarantee acceptance into the Program.

Although we will consider any applicant with a "strong background in biological sciences and physical sciences", we are especially interested in applicants who already possess basic lab skills, and who have an up-to-date knowledge of genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry and physiology.

We require official GRE scores and official letters of reference. In addition, for international applicants we also require official TOEFL / IELTS scores and official transcript evaluations. By "official", we mean scores sent to WVSU directly from the organization that awarded the scores (ex. WES or ETS), not sent through the applicant.

Good English is a must! You must be able to communicate, both verbally and orally, in reasonably-correct, understandable English. All classroom instruction is in English, your thesis will be in English, and all Biotech Graduate students must teach at least two sections. So you must demonstrate to us that your English is solid. Begin by using correct English in all correspondence with WVSU.