

How to Apply for Admission

September 25, 2017

//

Please notice that this is West Virginia State University (Institute WV), not West Virginia University (Morgantown WV). These are two un-related institutions.

The WVSU Biotech Program offers a Master's degree in Biotechnology. We accept applicants twice a year: at the start of the Fall semester (typically in mid-August) and at the start of the Spring semester (typically in mid-January). We accept all qualified applicants. However, we can fund only a limited number of assistantships.

What's the application process?

Look at the Application Checklist. Follow the instructions. Note that the WVSU Admissions Office is not the primary contact at WVSU. Send application materials to the correct addresses.

Send us your completed application. Do this by the due date. Although the graduate program does not have an on-line application process, you may send application documents via email. See the Application Checklist for details.

Soon after the deadline date, the WVSU Biotech Faculty meet and review all applications. We determine how many GTAs and GRAs will be available for incoming students. Then we make our best decisions from among the applicants. We rarely make decisions before the application deadline date has passed, but we wouldn't rule it out for an exceptional applicant.

We will contact you, regardless of the decision. We will inform you (both via email and on official WVSU stationary) if you have been accepted into the Program and if you have been offered an assistantship. Details such as the amount of the stipend, starting dates for classes, necessary paperwork, etc. will be provided in the notification letter.

Be aware that there is a deadline to apply for admission with a Graduate Assistantship (October 15 or March 15), and a deadline for applying to the program without a Graduate Assistantship (this deadline varies, but is later than the GA deadline).

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.

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.

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.