



Graduate School
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
Program in Cell and Molecular Biology

From: **Dr. Douglas Rhoads**
Program Director
To: **Potential CEMB Applicants**
Re: **Basis for Admission Decisions**

Thank you for your interest in the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program. The following will answer many of your questions and provide important directions for you. Please read these carefully.

Applications are reviewed year round, but most assistantships are awarded in early spring (January and February) of every year for the following fall semester.

Inquiries regarding status or completion of applications should be addressed to gradinfo@uark.edu.

There are no minimum GRE scores but GRE scores are used as an indicator of applicant's aptitude. The average GRE for admitted students is in the range of 305 (old system 1050) and undergraduate GPA of 3.5.

Simply applying to the program is usually insufficient for admission. I refer you to the program web site at <http://cemb.uark.edu> and specifically to the **Program Description** page and the link to **Application Tips and Suggestions**. Students are only admitted into this program if they have a faculty sponsor (a mentor to direct their research and provide a "home" laboratory). Finding such a sponsor is the responsibility of the applicant, but all application files are made electronically available to all CEMB faculty. Matching an applicant with a faculty member and securing an assistantship is the biggest impediment to admission. Any contact with a faculty member should provide details about the applicant and establishing connections between the applicant and the faculty member's research. Most faculty receive numerous inquiries so it is important to personalize your contact emails.

I encourage you to examine the faculty listings and contact individual faculty about opportunities in their research group. Any contact should outline why you are interested in their research program, how you are qualified to join that project (your preparation), and solicit feedback on opportunities and assistantships. You can find example emails in the "Information for Applicants" link on the program website.

From the Program Description page you will find the following:

Admission to Degree Program:

All applicants must have a B.A. or B.S. in a basic or applied science. Applicants must present Graduate Record Examination scores for the Verbal, Analytical and Quantitative tests. Although not required, scores from an advanced test related to Cell and Molecular Biology may increase a candidates chance for admission. For admission, **a student must have a sponsoring faculty member** who will submit probable thesis subjects to the Program Committee prior to acceptance of the student. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to find a sponsoring faculty member (consult the list of faculty and their contact information on the faculty page)**. Once an applicant has been approved by the Program Committee, applications are forwarded to the Graduate School for application for admission to the Graduate School. Students will be responsible for the Graduate School's application fee unless paid by the department of the sponsoring faculty member.

Graduate Student Support:

Stipend support for CEMB applicants is generally arranged through the sponsoring faculty member. Generally, most assistantships from the program or home departments are awarded early in the spring semester for the following fall, so timing of your application and contact with a faculty sponsor is important.

Any University support, whether as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or as a Graduate Research Assistant, can be arranged within the department of the sponsoring faculty member, or awarded competitively through the Cell and Molecular Biology Program. Specifically, teaching or research assistantships can be provided by the sponsoring faculty member through grant funds, by arrangement for a teaching or research assistantship offered through the department using departmental funds, or, as available, through the competitive awarding of a limited number of Graduate Student Fellowships made available by the Cell and Molecular Biology Program Committee.

Timeframes for admission decisions:

The applicant and potential faculty members will communicate and agree on a research program and support. The faculty member will then contact the Program Director and submit the faculty sponsorship form. At that point the Program Advisory Committee will review the applicant file and sponsorship form. When approved the Director will submit the signed admissions paperwork to the graduate school and email the applicant. The graduate school will process the paperwork and issue an official admission offer email letter. Depending on the time of year (Spring is very busy), it may take several weeks for the official paperwork to be issued.

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