

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY GRADUATE ADMISSION FAQ

APPLICATION FAQS

Do you have an application deadline?

We strongly encourage students to submit applications between December 1 and January 15 for admission to the program in the following fall. However, applications received after Jan 15 will still be reviewed.

Do you accept students for admission in the Spring semester?

Most students are accepted to begin graduate study in the fall semester (August). Very few students are accepted for admission in the spring semester (January).

Can I start in the summer?

Students who are offered fall admission may start in the summer if sponsored by a research group to initiate research.

Do I need to complete the departmental pre-application and online GT graduate application?

You may apply for admission using the GT online graduate application OR by completing the department's preapplication (at http://www.chemistry.gatech.edu/docs/GT_grad_application.doc). You do not need to submit both. By using the pre-application, you may avoid the Institute application fee (\$50). Full consideration of admission is given to applicants using either method.

Can I receive a waiver of the application fee?

Yes. Please complete the pre-application (see previous answer).

May I send copies of my transcripts and GRE (and TOEFL) for initial consideration of admission?

Yes, copies of the GRE and GRE (and TOEFL for international students) may be submitted with the preapplication. However, if admitted, you will need to provide verified official copies prior to admission.

Do I have to submit the pre-application and all the documents all together at one time, or can letters from my recommenders be sent separately?

If mailed, we encourage you to submit all materials as a single packet with letters of recommendation in signed, sealed envelopes within the packet. However, documents may be emailed separately.

Can I send scanned copies of the Pre-Application form and other documents to you through e-mail?

Yes, please see the instructions for the preapplication:

http://www.chemistry.gatech.edu/docs/GT_grad_application.doc

Is it okay for my recommenders to email the recommendation letters? If they fax or email the letter is the letter of recommendation signature form needed?

If using the GT online graduate application, faculty members will be prompted with an email to enter their letter of recommendation via the web. If you are using the pre-application, your recommenders are welcome to send their letters via email to Ms. Edwards (Ashley.edwards@chemistry.gatech.edu). However, the email must come from the recommender's workplace email address. Please be sure to send your letter of recommendation signature form with your pre-application OR ask the recommender to send it with their letter.

How can I check the status of my application?

If you applied via the online GT graduate admissions, it is possible to check your status by logging into your online GT graduate admission account. If you applied via the department pre-application, please email Ms. Ashley Edwards (Ashley.edwards@chemistry.gatech.edu) approximately two weeks after you mailed it.

Do I have to earn an MS before entering the Ph.D. program?

A student may be admitted directly into the PhD program.

I am an international student. What is your minimum TOEFL score?

A minimum internet-based TOEFL score of 100 is required to be considered for admission with teaching assistantship support.

I am international student who has completed at least 1 year of study at a US institution. Is the TOEFL required?

No, students who have completed at least one year of full-time study at a US institution are not required to submit a TOEFL score.

Do I have to submit scores for the general GRE exam (verbal, quantitative and writing scores)?

Yes.

Do you require the subject GRE?

No, the subject GRE is optional.

Do you have minimum GRE and GPA scores for admission into your program? How will my application be reviewed?

The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry does not have a minimum GRE or GPA required for admission. GRE and GPA scores are reviewed as components of your entire application. As a reference point, 80% of the PhD students admitted the program have earned a combined verbal + quantitative GRE score of 304-319 (GRE after August 2011) or 1100-1300 (GRE format prior to August 2011) and possess an overall undergraduate GPA between 3.2 and 3.8. However, some students are admitted with scores outside of this range. Additional information describing admission criteria can be found at: <http://www.chemistry.gatech.edu/graduate/criteria/>

When will I be notified of a decision on my application?

Decisions are made between mid-January and the first week of April. Offer letters are sent via express mail. In addition, students receive an email notifying them that an offer has been made.

When do I have to decide if I am offered admission?

We would appreciate your decision by April 15 (Please note that no U.S. institution should force you to make an earlier decision).

Can I visit campus?

We strongly encourage you to visit campus. An invitation to participate in a graduate visitation weekend is included with the letter offering admission. During these weekends, prospective graduate students tour facilities, meet with faculty and students. An invitation to visit is sent with the offer of admission.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FAQ:**Are assistantships available?**

Each year, we admit 30-40 Ph.D. students who typically are supported as teaching assistants in their first year. Students beyond on the first year are typically supported via research assistantships

What is the current stipend?

Graduate assistants include a stipend of \$25,000 per year (starting Fall 2012), and also include a waiver of tuition..

Do you offer fellowships beyond this stipend?

Various fellowship programs provide supplemental stipends of between \$1000 and \$10,000. These are available to students with excellent undergraduate credentials (e.g. grades, research experience, etc). There is no additional application to be considered for these fellowships.

Do students receive health benefits (insurance)? The student health center serves as your primary care physician. All graduate assistants receive a stipend supplement to purchase supplemental health insurance. Information regarding student health insurance can be found at www.studentinsurance.com

OTHER FAQs:

How many PhD students do you have in your program?

The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry has >210 graduate students pursuing the Ph.D. The department is approximately the twelfth largest Chemistry graduate program in the U.S. The graduate student body is diverse and consists of approximately 75% US citizens or permanent resident, 45% women, 15% minority, and 25% international students.

Where can I learn more about the specific academic requirements for the graduate program?

Requirements for the PhD in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry can be found in the CHEM Graduate Handbook: <http://www.chemistry.gatech.edu/graduate/courses/chemgradhandook.pdf> .

I am an international student and have decided to accept my offer of admission, when will I receive my I-20?I-20s are mailed approximately 2-3 weeks following acceptance of your admission.

Is it acceptable to contact professors directly?

Yes, we encourage you to contact faculty in the department to discuss mutual research interests. In addition to reviewing information on the faculty member's website, please also review his/her recent publications using library scientific databases available at your home institution.

Do we accept the IELTS? At this time, the Institute only accepts the TOEFL.

What is your policy on transferring from other graduate programs? Students are encouraged to review the Council of Graduate School's Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants at http://www.cgsnet.org/portals/0/pdf/CGS_Resolution.pdf.