In addition to the Graduate School requirements, applicants must have evidence of a strong academic record in the biological sciences. The following science courses are required or recommended:

**Biology**
- One year of general biology with laboratory (required)
- One course in genetics (required)
  - At least one course in cellular biology, cellular physiology, animal physiology, or bacterial physiology (required)
  - Microbiology and immunology (recommended)

**Chemistry**
- One year of general chemistry with laboratory (required)
- Two sequential terms of organic chemistry with a laboratory course (required)
  - Biochemistry (required)

**Physics**
- Two sequential terms of physics with a laboratory (required)

**Additional application requirements**

The statement of purpose should include the following:
- An explanation of how obtaining a graduate degree in our program fits your career goals.
- A description of the qualities you possess that will contribute to your success in your chosen field.
- A description of any research experiences you have had. If you have had a research experience, it is important to include a letter of recommendation from your research adviser.
- A list of the areas of research in the department that interest you.

**Financial Assistance**

The student must first apply to the Graduate School and be accepted in full or conditional status before he/she is eligible for an assistantship. Research and teaching assistantships are contingent upon availability of funds and are awarded competitively. Applicants are considered on the basis of scholarship, potential to undertake advanced study and research, and financial need.