

Admissions Procedures and Requirements

All students applying to UC Merced for graduate study do so through a standard campuswide web site. Applicants to the Chemistry and Chemical Biology program are evaluated by the admissions committee and recommendations are made to the Graduate Division. The actual offers of admission are made by the Dean of the Graduate Division, while offers of financial support as Teaching Assistants (TAs) or Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) are made by the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences (this may change as the Bylaw 55 units are assigned greater responsibilities). The nominal deadline for application is January 15 of each year, although late applications may be considered if space is available. Normally admission is made only for Fall semester, although admission for Spring semester may be considered in special cases. The group normally offers admission only to students whose goal is the Ph.D. degree, but students seeking a terminal Masters degree may occasionally be considered.

The minimum requirements for graduate admission are a bachelor's degree or equivalent and a grade point average no lower than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Foreign students from non-English speaking countries are required to attain a minimum score on the iBT TOEFL exam of 92. Students from non-English speaking countries will normally be interviewed by telephone in order to evaluate whether they are sufficiently proficient in English to be appointed as TAs. It is expected that most successful applicants will have undergraduate degrees in chemistry, chemical engineering, materials science, physics, mathematics, or biochemistry, but the admissions committee will use its judgment in evaluating performance in all undergraduate courses taken. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) general test is required and a subject test in Chemistry, Physics, Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, or Mathematics is recommended. Three letters of recommendation must also be submitted from instructors or supervisors who can comment on the applicant's scholarly ability and promise as a researcher. The admissions committee will consider the complete undergraduate transcript, performance on the GRE, accomplishments in undergraduate research, letters of recommendation, and fit between the applicant's stated interests and those of the program faculty in deciding whether to recommend admission.

Applicants to Chemistry and Chemical Biology are admitted to the program, not to a specific research group. It is usually expected that new students will be supported as TAs during their first semester. While applicants are encouraged to discuss research interests with program faculty before arriving, they are not expected to choose a research advisor until after their first semester in residence.