



## **GEBS Program FAQ**

### **What is your minimum GRE Score accepted?**

*MSM does not have a cutoff for GRE scores. We prefer to look at those scores in the context of the overall background, interests, and experience of the applicant.*

### **What is a competitive GRE score for your program?**

*Competitive GRE scores on the general exam range upwards from 500 Verbal, 600 Quantitative, and 4.0 analytical writing. MS enrollees average somewhat lower. We do not use specific cut-offs.*

### **Are there any courses that I must have taken before being admitted to your program?**

*There are no specific course requirements for admission. We do however require a Bachelor's degree with a major in the natural sciences. Basic biology, chemistry and physics courses are highly recommended and assist our admissions committee in determining preparedness for graduate study in the biomedical sciences. Undergraduate courses in the following and related fields are extremely helpful in preparing students to perform well in our program: Cell Biology, Histology, Molecular Biology, Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Quantitative Analysis, Biostatistics, and Computer Science.*

### **How long does the program take to complete?**

*For the Ph.D. program, the "student in residence" requirement is a minimum 3.5 years and the maximum allowable time to degree is 7 years. Stipend funding is guaranteed for a maximum of 6 years. The shortest time to degree for any student in our program has been 3.5 years. Our current average time to the Ph.D. degree is 5 years. Our Ph.D. core curriculum lasts 15 months. Beyond that, the amount of time required is dependent on the student's effort and progress in his or her dissertation research. For the M.S. program, the "student in*

*residence” requirement is a minimum of 1 year and 10 months and there is currently no policy for a maximum period to degree (although because of tuition costs students typically work to finish in that time). The average time to degree in the M.S program is 2 years.*

**What kind of Financial Aid do you have available?**

*For students accepted into the Ph.D. program, tuition, fees, and a stipend of \$24,000 per year are guaranteed for 6 years.*

*Students enrolled in the M.S. program must pay tuition and fees totaling approximately \$24,000/year. No stipend is available for M.S. students. However, U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible for federally subsidized student loans, which they can arrange through our Student Financial Affairs Office.*

**What is a competitive GPA for your program?**

*Based on Ph.D. students recently accepted, competitive GPA's range upwards from 3.0 (depending on the competitiveness of the undergraduate institution).*

*Based on M.S. students recently accepted, competitive GPA's range upwards from 2.8 (depending on the competitiveness of the undergraduate institution).*