The Department of Cell & Developmental Biology does not admit students to the Cell & Developmental Biology MS degree program. Admission to graduate study is only through the PhD degree program. Information about the Cell & Developmental degree PhD program can be found here (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/cell-developmental-biology-phd/).

Graduate Degree Program in Cell & Developmental Biology

Cell & Developmental Biology, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/cell-developmental-biology-phd/)

The graduate curriculum in Cell and Developmental Biology is designed to educate students for careers in research and teaching in the biological sciences. Departmental faculty are concerned with the structural and functional relationships of cells and organisms, with research emphases upon eukaryotic cell and molecular biology, developmental biology, and molecular genetics.

Admission

Applicants interested in the Cell & Developmental Biology, PhD program will need to apply directly to the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) PhD program, https://mcb.illinois.edu/graduate/gradprospect/. The MCB PhD program is an umbrella program that requires admitted students to spend their first semester rotating among three different labs to explore their interests before joining one of our four departments.

MCB Admission requirements include a bachelor’s degree in biological or physical sciences, a grade point average of a 3.0 or higher (A = 4.0), prior research experience and three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant’s academic and research background. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required. Applicants interested in pursuing a PhD in Cell & Developmental Biology should have a strong background in biology, chemistry, and mathematics. In addition to these requirements, non-native English-speaking applicants must attain a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) overall score of 96, with at least a score of 22 on the speaking section. MCB does not accept the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to show English proficiency. Graduate College requirements also apply.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Experience in teaching is considered a vital part of the graduate program and is required as part of the academic work of all PhD candidates in this program.

Facilities and Resources

Facilities include modern, well-equipped laboratories for cellular, developmental, genetic, molecular, and structural studies. The University offers exceptional and broadly based research support services. The Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center provides state-of-the art facilities to support genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics, flow cytometry, and translational medical research. The University offers outstanding computer services and is home to the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology foster interdisciplinary research across the campus. Opportunities for interaction in the cellular and molecular sciences are also available in many other units within the Schools of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Integrative Biology, Chemical Sciences, the Cancer Center, College of Engineering, and the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available to qualified applicants in the form of university fellowships (awarded on a competitive basis), teaching assistantships (awarded by the department), research assistantships, and tuition and fee waivers.