

# MICROBIOLOGY, MS

## *for the degree of Master of Science in Microbiology*

**head of department:** James Slauch

**directors of graduate studies:** Andrei Kuzminov, Cari Vanderpool, and Rachel Whitaker

**mcb graduate admissions email:** [mcb-grad@illinois.edu](mailto:mcb-grad@illinois.edu)

**department website:** <https://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/microbiology> (<https://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/microbiology/>)

**school website:** <http://mcb.illinois.edu>

**college website:** <https://las.illinois.edu> (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)

**department office:** B103 Chemical and Life Sciences Laboratory, 601 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801

**phone:** (217) 333-1736

The Department of Microbiology does not admit students to the Microbiology MS degree program. Admission to graduate study is only through the PhD degree program. Information about the Microbiology PhD program can be found here (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/microbiology-phd/>).

## Graduate Degree Program in Microbiology

Microbiology, PhD (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/microbiology-phd/>)

The Department of Microbiology at Illinois offers unique opportunities for graduate students to become skilled and creative microbiologists. Our graduate program of study leads to the doctor of philosophy degree (PhD). Students interested in the Microbiology PhD program must apply directly to the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology (<http://mcb.illinois.edu/>). During the first semester, students perform three laboratory rotations, choosing from any laboratory in the School. Students select a laboratory for their thesis research in December and formally join the appropriate graduate program at that time.

## Admission

Applicants interested in the Microbiology 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 Microbiology should have a total of at least 15 credit hours of physical or biology sciences, including general biology, or microbiology, chemistry through organic chemistry and biochemistry, and mathematics through calculus. 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 a score of at least 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.

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For specific information, refer to the Department's Graduate Student Handbook ([https://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/microbiology/downloads/microbiology\\_graduate\\_student\\_handbook.pdf](https://mcb.illinois.edu/departments/microbiology/downloads/microbiology_graduate_student_handbook.pdf)) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

## Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
Coursework (not including MICR 590)		8
Research/Project Hours (4 min applied toward degree)		4
MICR 599	Thesis Research (0 min applied toward degree)	0
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>32</b>

## Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	8 (500 level)

Minimum Number of 500-level Hours Required Overall in Program: 12

Completion of one of the following and approval by the research advisor and head of the department: a research thesis; submission of a manuscript with the candidate as first author and to which the candidate has made the major contribution; the successful passing of the departmental preliminary exam.

Minimum GPA: 3.0

### Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
	Coursework (not including MICR 590)	8
	Research/Project Hours (4 min applied toward degree)	4
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>32</b>

### Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	8 (500 level)
Minimum Number of 500-level Hours Required Overall in Program:	12
Completion of one of the following and approval by the research advisor and head of the department: a research thesis; submission of a manuscript with the candidate as first author and to which the candidate has made the major contribution; the successful passing of the departmental preliminary exam.	
Minimum GPA:	3.0