Q: How do I get information about the UM St. Louis BCBT program?

A: You can learn more about us by visiting http://www.umsl.edu/~biotech/index.html and at http://www.umsl.edu/~biotech/degree/graduate.html.

Q: What are the deadlines for admission?

A: If you are an international student, your application must be complete before May 1 for fall admission, Oct 1 for spring admission. For domestics, July 1 for fall and Dec 1 for spring.

Q: Can I apply to your program by just sending you my CV and scores in an email?

A: NO. You must apply formally online to the university to be considered. International students can apply at http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospective/application_form.html.

Q: Where can I get application forms?

A: You must apply online at http://www.umsl.edu/admission/apply/index.html.

Q: What are the application materials?

A: These are listed by the on-line submission system. See: http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/prospective/applying.html

Q: Are there assistantships available for students in the BCBT MS program?

A: There are no funds to provide assistantships in this program. Students are self supporting.

Q: Can the application fee ($50 for international students beginning 7/1/14) be waived?

A. No. Only paid applications will be considered.

Q: Are GRE scores required?

A. GRE General scores are required for international students who are applying to the MS program. University will require official copies to be sent to them before you can be admitted.

Q: What is the institutional code for reporting scores?

A: Institutional code is 6889, and the Dept code 0202 for Biochemistry.
Q: I have old GRE scores. Are they still acceptable?
A: ETS will not send GRE scores to the University that are more than 5 years old.

Q: Do I have to take the TOEFL/TWE/IELTS?
A: All international students are required to take one of these tests, and there are University standards for admission. Exceptions can be found at:

http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospective/TOEFL.html

In general, the requirement may be waived for applicants who:

• Are Citizens or Permanent Residents (green card holders) of the United States.
• Are Citizens of a Recognized Native English-Speaking Country.
(http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospective/TOEFL.html#Countries)
• Are Nonresident Aliens in the US on a Work Visa (H-1B or L1).
• Completed Secondary Education in the US or a Recognized Native English-Speaking Country
• Earned a Bachelor’s Degree from an Institution in the US or a Recognized Native English-Speaking Country.
• Have Completed 30 (thirty) or More non–ESL Credit Hours in an Officially Accredited Institution in the US or a Recognized Native English-Speaking Country.

Q: What is the minimum acceptable TOEFL/TWE/IELTS score?
A: See: http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/prospective/international.html

80 iBT score for TOEFL (550 old paper-based). IELTS would need to be at least 6.0, but standard could be higher depending on the applicant pool.

Q: What is the minimum acceptable GPA?
A: Since graduate students must maintain a 3.0 as a graduate student to stay in the program and graduate, we are looking for 3.0 (B average) or better in undergraduate coursework. Depending on the documented success/failure of students where you come from, this cutoff could be higher.

Q: I am interested in an MS degree but have a low GPA. What are my options?
A: If you are only missing a few courses and/or need to get your GPA up, apply as a nondegree seeking student. You can take up to nine hours, in which you will need to get B’s or better in your courses in order to move into the MS program. If you need to take more than nine hours, apply as a nondegree seeking undergraduate. If you are not sure, contact the Program Director for advice (bcbtinfo@umsl.edu).

Q: What are the minimum acceptable GRE scores?
A: There is some variability from country to country, but generally we look for percentiles that are in excess of 15% for verbal and quantitative.
Q: I can’t afford to pay for graduate school. How do I apply for financial aid?

A: There is no formal means of providing support for BCBT MS students. For other forms of support, the graduate school website has links for this purpose.

http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/prospective/financial.html

Q: I am a married international student and would like my spouse to join me in the US.

A: The University can issue a dependant I-20 for a spouse. A copy of the marriage certificate will be needed, and the student will need to show $4,000 in additional financial support before an I-20 can be issued for the spouse. The University is not required to supply the additional financial support needed for dependents.

Q: I have a day job; can I pursue an MS degree at night?

A: YES. Many of our courses are offered at night. Most of our MS students have day jobs and are able to obtain their degree in this fashion.

Q: Can I receive financial aid if I am nondegree seeking?

A: I know of no financial aid for non-degree seeking students.

Q: Can I send photocopies of my transcripts or test scores?

A: While the Program commonly can look at copies in an initial evaluation, the University requires official copies of such documents prior to admission.

Q: Where should I submit my additional documents, such as letters of recommendation?

A: See address below.

Q: Do you need CV and Personal Statement?

A: A personal statement is very helpful. You may send a CV in addition to your application if you wish.

Q: What are the required undergrad science courses needed to get into the MS BCBT program?

A: To get into the MS program, you need a BA/BS in biology or chemistry or very closely related area that includes a two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry, one semester each of biochemistry, cell biology, and genetics. It is strongly recommended that undergraduate molecular biology also be completed prior to starting the program. Quantitative analysis is a required prerequisite for Biochemistry Lab, which some MS students take.
If you don’t have this background, it is possible to be admitted as a nondegree seeking student to pick up missing courses and/or demonstrate you can maintain the appropriate GPA.

Q: Do you admit graduate students to start in January?
A: We admit BCBT MS students for both fall and spring.

Q: Do you admit graduate students to start in summer?
A: We advise not starting your program in the summer, since there are typically no BCBT lecture courses offered at that time. Research and/or seminar are summer options for those who have already finished at least one regular semester in the program.

Q: Can this program be completed in two semesters?
A: No. Due to scheduling to accommodate evening students, it will take at least three regular semesters to complete the program. Most of our students are part time and take about two years to finish.

Q: Can letters of recommendation be sent electronically? Are the recommendation forms required?
A: Yes, they can. If necessary, rec letters and forms can be scanned and emailed to bcbtinfo@umsl.edu as an image file.

Q: What is the minimum number of letters of recommendation required for application?
A: At least two.

Q: I would like to know whether WES (World Education Services) credential evaluation is required for International students.
A: It's optional for our program. Please be advised that if you have it done, your application will be processed more quickly. If it's done on campus, there can be significant delay. You choose: money vs. time.

Q: Where can I find out about tuition and fees?
A: These change often. Try: http://www.umsl.edu/cashiers/tuition-fees/index.html

Q: What if I have a question that is not listed here?
A: Send your question to bcbtinfo@umsl.edu.

Useful websites:
UMSL Graduate School:
http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/

Mail paper materials to:

Program Director
Biochemistry & Biotechnology Program
MC 27
One Univ. Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Where to apply online
http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/prospective/apply-online.html

International Student Services
http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/

ELS program:
http://www.els.edu/en/ELSCenters/Detail?locid=STL#els_general_tab