

University of Missouri-St. Louis
Department of Physics & Astronomy
Graduate Admissions
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are you accepting applications for the Fall 2021 semester?

A: Due to budget constraints resulting from the pandemic we are currently not accepting applications. A decision will be made in late January about future applications. **Do not submit an online application until you have contacted the graduate admissions program director at majzoube@umsl.edu.**

Q: How do I get information about the UMSL Physics & Astronomy Department?

A: You can learn more about us by visiting www.umsl.edu/~physics. You can download our departmental brochure
https://www.umsl.edu/~physics/files/pdfs/Graduate_Physics_Program_2019.pdf

Q: What research areas are available?

A: We have active PhD and MS programs which include research opportunities in astrophysics, biophysics, and materials science. Faculty research interests are described at <http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/files/pdfs/phyres20181.pdf>.

Q: What are the deadlines for admission?

A: There is no formal deadline, although we do fill up in the spring for fall admission. To get the best consideration for admission and financial aid in the fall, apply before April 1. For self-supporting MS students, submit your application before June 1 for fall admission, Nov. 1 for spring admission.

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

A: No. You must apply formally to the university to be considered. Domestic students may apply online. International students can apply at <https://www.umsl.edu/global/admissions/grad.html>

Q: Where can I get application forms?

A: You may apply online at <http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/how-to-apply.html>

Q: What are the application materials?

A: These are listed by the on-line submission system.
For U.S. students see:

<http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/how-to-apply.html>

For international students see:

<https://www.umsl.edu/global/admissions/grad.html>

Q: Can the application fee (\$50 for US Students, \$40 for international students) be waived?

A: No. Only paid applications will be considered.

Q: Are GRE scores required?

A: GRE General scores are required for admission to the MS and PhD programs if you are requesting financial support. The University will require official copies to be sent before you can be admitted. Minimum scores on the Quantitative section of 148, and the Analytical/Writing section of 3.0 are required before applications to the Ph.D. program will be considered.

Q: What are the institutional and departmental codes for reporting scores?

A: Institutional is 6889; Departmental is 0808.

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:

<https://www.umsl.edu/global/admissions/englishrequirements.html>

Q: What is the minimum acceptable TOEFL/IELTS score?

A: It is recommended that for admission to our University, students have a TOEFL score of at least 550 pBT/79 iBT, 53 PTE-A, or an IELTS score of 6.5.

Teaching assistants are required to have a good command of English. Minimum scores for teaching assistants in physics are 570 pBT/88 iBT. Students submitting only IELTS scores are reviewed on a case by case basis.

Q: What is the minimum acceptable GPA?

A: The Graduate School requires an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or better for admission into the MS program. For PhD students, we are looking for 3.0 or better. Depending on the competitiveness of other applications at the time you apply, this cutoff could be higher.

Q: Can letters of recommendation be sent electronically? Are the recommendation forms required?

A: Yes, they can. Once you have applied and received your UMSL SSO ID, you can send out requests for your letters to be sent to the Department.

Q: What is the minimum number of letters of recommendation required for application?

A: At least two.

Q: Do you need CV and Personal Statement?

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

Q: I cannot afford graduate school. Is there financial support available?

A: Yes, students can apply to be supported as either teaching assistants or research assistants.
<http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/funding-graduate-school.html>

Q: What is the amount of the stipend? Does this include tuition, fees, and health insurance?

A: Stipends for graduate teaching assistants are at least \$14,500 for nine months. Students doing teaching or research in the summer make at least an additional \$2500-\$3500. Tuition and fees are paid, but students are responsible for health insurance.

Q: What health insurance is available?

A. All international students must also have health insurance in the US, and those with F and J visas are automatically enrolled in UMSL's insurance program upon academic enrollment each semester. Insurance charges will automatically be billed to students' account and will appear on their monthly billing statements.

Additional information on the healthcare program can be found at:

<https://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/890440/index.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 dependent 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. Most of our graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon/evening.

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

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

Mail paper materials to:

Director of Graduate Admissions
Department of Physics & Astronomy
University of Missouri-St. Louis

One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121

Where to apply online

<http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/how-to-apply.html>

International Student Services

<https://www.umsl.edu/global/>