

ADMISSION

The Entomology and Nematology Department encourages inquiries and applications from all qualified students. In order to access information about our department including the faculty, student body and courses taught, prospective students are encouraged to visit the department's web site at:

<http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Since the information is available on our web site, except in special circumstances, the Office of the Graduate Coordinator no longer mails out application packets of materials. Prospective students must apply online, by visiting the University of Florida web site where information is available to guide the student through the application process. Prospective students are encouraged to correspond by email with the Graduate Coordinator (gradc@ifas.ufl.edu) when they apply online. If the student prefers not to apply online, forms may be printed, filled out, and submitted by mail. The \$30.00 application fee and residency form must be submitted before the department may review the application.

<http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/students/application-and-admission.html>

To be admitted to the Graduate School, the student must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have obtained at least a 3.0 GPA. The Entomology and Nematology Department does not require an undergraduate major in entomology, nematology, or biology as a condition of admission; however, if the bachelor's degree is in a non-science field, it should be supplemented with the following coursework:

- one year of general biology (2 semesters)
- at least one semester of general chemistry
- algebra and trigonometry
- at least one semester of physics (recommended)

Applicants must provide the **Office of Admissions** with official transcripts of all previous college and/or university studies and official GRE and TOEFL (if applicable) scores submitted directly from ETS (University Code: 5812, Dept. Code: 0209). If the transcripts and diploma or degree certificate are not in English, certified copies of English translations must be included. Send documents to the Office of Admissions (201 Criser Hall, P.O. Box 114000, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-4000) -- **not to the Graduate School.**

Our department requires the following documents, which should be sent to the Graduate Coordinator, and not to the Office of Admissions: (a) a Statement of Purpose written by the student, which should indicate previous training and experience, interests, and educational and career goals as an entomologist or nematologist; (b) three letters of recommendation from persons in a position to evaluate the student's academic potential; (c) the form requesting an assistantship or fellowship, unless you are funded by another organization such as your institution, government, a granting agency, or are self-funded; (d) copies of transcripts with degree statement (photocopies are satisfactory); and (e) a copy of your GRE general test score.

Also, we require that a prospective student find a faculty member who will be his/her major advisor and provide a research opportunity, which may include an assistantship. We do not review application documents for graduate study until students have a faculty advisor and until the source of funding is known. The faculty member must provide a letter to the Graduate Coordinator's Office stating that she/he will supervise the student and whether she/he also will provide funding.

Our Graduate Committee, chaired by the Graduate Coordinator, makes the admission decision, not the University. If a student is denied admission by our Graduate Committee and wishes to appeal the decision, the Department Chairperson and the Graduate Coordinator serve as an appeals committee. Their decision is final. For various reasons we may not be able to accept everyone who meets the minimum requirements. Alternatively, we may accept a prospective student who does not meet all of the minimum requirements if exceptional strength is shown in a particular area. For example, if the GRE score is below the minimum, and if strength is demonstrated in other areas of the application, we have the option, subject to approval by the Graduate School, of accepting a student on a conditional basis. Conditional admission usually requires that the student make no grade less than a "B" on each course in the first 12 hours of required graduate courses.

Successful students (both domestic and international) usually have scores of approximately 500 each on the verbal and quantitative parts of the GRE. However, the GRE is only one of the criteria considered by the Graduate Committee in its admission decisions. For domestic students, the University requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 (4.0 system) on the last 60 credits of upper division undergraduate work.

For international students whose language of academic instruction is not English, the Graduate School requires a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, 213 on the computer-based TOEFL, 80 on

the internet-based TOEFL, or 6.0 on the EILTS. Additionally, international students must certify financial responsibility as stipulated in the documents obtained from the University of Florida International Center web site (<http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/>). Financial support may come from the student's government, a granting agency, personal funds, or from a faculty member. The Certification of Financial Responsibility form must be submitted to the International Center before an I-20 can be issued.

Direct Admission to the Ph.D. Program (without M.S. degree)

Only the very best students will be considered for acceptance into the Ph.D. program without first completing the M.S. degree. The following requirements will apply:

- 1) Undergraduate GPA at least 3.5
- 2) Combined GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores of 1250
- 3) Previous biological sciences research experience (e.g., undergraduate thesis, published paper[s], presentation or poster at scientific meeting)
- 4) Clear and focused statement of intent (professional goals and research area)
- 5) Strong letters of recommendation
- 6) Strong support from Department of Entomology and Nematology Dissertation advisor for student to go straight into the Ph.D. program

Exceptions for students not meeting all of the above criteria would require a unanimous vote of the Graduate Committee.