

GRADUATE APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCESS

Types of Degrees and Financial Support

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences offers **non-thesis MS degrees** (MS in Animal Science with a concentration in Business, Entrepreneurship and Leadership; MS in Animal Science with a concentration in Veterinary Biosciences, Biotechnology, and One Health; MS in Food Science with a concentration in Business, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership) and **thesis-based MS and PhD degrees** (MS in Animal Science; MS in Food Science; PhD in Animal and Food Science). Students admitted into non-thesis MS programs are responsible for paying tuition and no scholarship support is available. Current costs are available [here](#). Students admitted into thesis-based programs are supported with research or teaching assistantships.

Application Deadlines

Our department's official dates for applying for the **Fall** semester are **February 1** for priority consideration for assistantship funding and **June 1** (international applicants) or **August 1** (domestic applicants) for any consideration. Application dates for the **Spring** semester are **September 1** for priority consideration and **December 15** (international applicants) or **January 15** (domestic applicants) for any consideration.

Admission Process for Non-Thesis Programs

Applications for the non-thesis programs are reviewed on a rolling basis by the Graduate Advisory Committee. Applicants with a competitive GPA (typically > 3.0), a relevant undergraduate degree, and strong letters of support are most likely to be admitted.

Admission Process for Thesis-Based Programs

Students are accepted into a thesis-based program only if a faculty member possessing adequate financial support is interested in advising the student. *For this reason, formal application should be delayed until such time as a tentative agreement of support is reached with a potential advisor. **This also means that the applicant must take primary responsibility for guiding the application process.***

Prior to officially applying, contact potential advisors in your area(s) of interest to determine if they have **Research Assistantships or Teaching Assistantships available**. This should be done well in advance of application deadlines. Our Faculty directory, including areas of research can be found [here](#). Contact faculty members by e-mail; be sure to include a statement of introduction and a resume for review. Applicants should follow-up with a repeat e-mail if a response is not received in

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a reasonable amount of time (~2 weeks). Due to the limited availability of faculty with assistantships, applicants should only formally apply if encouraged to do so by a potential faculty advisor. Students who have been encouraged to apply should apply online through [Graduate Admissions to UD](#).

At the request of a faculty member, the department's Graduate Studies Committee will review an application and make a recommendation to the Department Chair. ***Please understand that applicants are not reviewed for possible acceptance unless a potential advisor has an interest in advising a specific student and explicitly requests that an evaluation be conducted. This means that applicants should check with potential advisors to determine the status of their application.*** If a decision is made to admit, the student will receive letter of acceptance from the graduate office and an offer letter from the department outlining responsibilities, assistant type and funding level, health benefits, and other important information. Applications that have not been reviewed at the request of a faculty member will be rejected without review.

Application Fee

The department does not provide application fee waivers. Occasionally, a faculty member wishing to accept a student into a thesis-based program in his or her lab will pay the application fee. In such a case, the supporting faculty member will contact the graduate program coordinator to arrange to pay the application fee.

Best of luck to you!

Applicants with additional questions are urged to contact Graduate Program Coordinator Denise Williamson (denisew@udel.edu) or Graduate Program Director Tanya Gressley (gressley@udel.edu)