

Criteria for Admission of MS and PhD Students

Admission to our graduate program is competitive and qualification for consideration does not guarantee admission.

U.S. citizens

- Graduation or impending graduation from an accredited university or college with a Bachelor's degree
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the last two years or 60 semester hours of coursework
- The Graduate Record Examination is required for all applicants. The advanced subject area test is not required on the Graduate Record Examination. It is expected that applicants will have received a minimum GRE score of 156 (new system); 550 (old system) for the verbal section and 148 (new system); 600 (old system) for the quantitative section. However, the GRE score will not be used as the sole determinant of admission.
- MS applicants may be admitted on a provisional basis with a minimum grade point average of 2.6. Admission on a provisional status is not available to PhD applicants.
- Positive references indicating aptitude for graduate studies, especially for research
- Students must have relevant background and course work in the field of interest or be able to demonstrate excellent aptitude in the field of interest. Applicants without a relevant background are sometimes admitted on a provisional basis.
- At least one faculty member must be willing to advise the applicant and suitable faculty must be available to serve on the advisory committee.

International students are expected to have the same qualifications as U.S. students. Students from countries where English is not the official language must take the TOEFL exam. A score of at least 550 (paper), 213 (computer) and 80 (internet) is required on the TOEFL.

Process

Applications for admission to graduate study in Horticulture are subject to university standards outlined on the graduate school web site and are reviewed by a committee appointed by the Department Head. The committee then makes a recommendation to the Department Head regarding admission to our program. In order to be admitted to a graduate program in Horticulture, a faculty member must agree to serve as the Major Advisor. Serving as a Major Advisor is a serious commitment. Factors affecting a faculty member's decision to serve as the Major Advisor to an applicant include the potential advisor's assessment of the overall potential 2

of the applicant, evidence of common research interests, the number of students currently advised, and the availability of funding. Please feel free to contact potential advisors directly through the e-mail addresses listed on our web site to inquire about their potential to serve as a Major Advisor.

Funding

Graduate stipends and tuition can be funded through GTA's (graduate teaching assistantships) or through grant funding for specific projects. Both types of funding are very competitive. GTA funding requires excellent command of conversational English and good TOEFL scores (if required). Grant funding depends on the resources of individual faculty.