**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. Based on my GPA, am I eligible for your graduate program? (Our criteria is GPA 3.0/4.0 minimum. We understand that some international applicants may have been evaluated on a different scale. Our international office will translate your transcripts when you apply.)
2. Do I need a degree in Biology to gain admission to your program? (No. Students may have degrees in Ecology, Environmental Science, or other related field. Requirements vary depending on the faculty advisor.)
3. Do I need to take the GRE? (No.)
4. Do I need to take the TOEFL if my undergraduate studies were in English? (No. See the international student requirements here: <https://graduate.ua.edu/prospective-students/international> admissions/)
5. Do I have to apply separately for funding as a graduate research assistantship (RA) or teaching assistantship (TA)? (No. Applicants are automatically considered for funding opportunities when they apply for the program.)
6. Will I be guaranteed funding through graduate assistantship (TA/RA) and how do I apply? (Funding is often available for MS, MMS, and PhD students, but it is dependent on the faculty advisor. You must obtain the support of a faculty advisor in order to be admitted into the MS, MMS, or PhD graduate program with funding. Your advisor may have research (RA) funding, or may have access to TA (teaching assistantship) funding. Talk to potential advisors in the BSC Faculty to find out what kind of funding might be available for your particular situation).
7. Where do I find out about potential advisors? (Visit our research pages at: https://bsc.ua.edu/research/research-overview/)
8. How long should my personal statement be? (1-3 pages)
9. Do you grant admission fee waivers? (We regret that our department cannot grant waivers at this time.)
10. Do international students need to have their transcripts evaluated through WES? (No. Your transcripts are evaluated by our international office during the application process.)
11. Do I need to have official copies of trancripts/test scores for admission? (Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for applying. After admission you will be required to submit official copies.)
12. Do I need to secure an advisor before admission is granted? (For our MA program, and advisor is not needed prior to admission. However, for MS, MMS, and PhD programs, it is highly unusual for students to be admitted without an advisor already identified.)
13. What are the general deadlines for applications in order to be considered for Financial Aids/Assistantships? (We have a rolling admissions process. If your potential faculty advisor has the potential for TA funding, please submit applications by December 1 for the following fall (August) admission, and by June 1 for the following spring (January) admission.)
14. Do you accept applications for both Spring and Fall academic sessions? And which is given priority in terms of Financial Aids/Assistantships? (This is dependent on funding availability. Generally there are more TAships available for fall applicants.)
15. How long does it take to process my application, and when will I hear if I’ve been admitted? Our department has a rolling admission policy. We meet monthly but also respond to funding and budgeting allocations from our institution and faculty. Most decisions are made by March for fall admissions.