Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Medical Sciences Program?

The Master of Science (MS) in Medical Sciences is a broad, interdisciplinary degree program that draws on the academic and research expertise of the College of Medicine Basic Science Departments. The MS in Medical Sciences may be used as a stand-alone degree by students seeking career enhancement in fields such as basic biomedical research, the pharmaceutical industry, or the health science professions; by students seeking credentials in the biomedical sciences as a preliminary to applying for medical school or other health sciences professional programs; or by students seeking to enhance their knowledge base prior to choosing a career direction. The MS in Medical Sciences curriculum is not designed for students interested in the fields of medical/clinical technology or medical physics.

What are the admission requirements/deadlines?

Students may apply for entry into the MS in Medical Sciences program in either the Fall or Spring semesters. For the best chance of gaining admission to the program, an applicant should have one year of general or inorganic chemistry, one year of organic chemistry (or one semester of organic chemistry and one semester of biochemistry) and at least one year of biology.

Applicants should meet the following requirements for admission into the Graduate School and the MS in Medical Sciences program:

- A baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited institution of higher learning.
- A minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.9 and graduate GPA of 3.0.
- An average GRE score on the verbal, quantitative and analytical sections greater than the 40th percentile. Use Institution code 1837 for submitting GRE scores to the Graduate School from the reporting agency.
- The MSMS program also accepts MCAT or DAT scores in lieu of the GRE to serve as the entrance exam. In such cases, it is recommended that applicants have a minimal score of 24 on the MCAT, or an academic and science minimal average of 16 on the DAT.
- For international applicants, a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based TOEFL (maximum 667) and a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based TOEFL (maximum 300) or a minimum score of 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (maximum 120); all applicants must demonstrate proficiency in verbal and written English.

All applications must follow the requirements of the University of Kentucky Graduate School, and must be submitted directly to the Graduate School. The online application form for the Graduate School may be accessed here. Three (3) letters of recommendation will be requested when you apply to the Graduate School. You will be asked to provide the names and contact information of three faculty members who are familiar with your undergraduate and graduate coursework, research, etc. Please note that applying to the Graduate School is required for official admission to the University of Kentucky.

Application deadline for Fall semester: June 1 for domestic applications and March 15 for international applications.
**Application deadline for Spring semester:** November 1 for domestic applicants and August 15 for international applicants.

**What is the application review and admission process?**

Once an application file is complete, it is scheduled for review by the MSMS Admissions Committee. At this point, the Committee will decide whether to offer admission and submit the decision to Apply Yourself. Each applicant will receive an email from the Graduate School indicating that a decision has been made and for the applicant to check the acceptance status on Apply Yourself. This will serve as the official notification that you have been accepted by the Graduate School.

**Where do I have my official GRE scores sent?**

Use Institution code 1837 for submitting official GRE scores to the Graduate School from the reporting agency.

**What is the average GRE score? What are the minimum requirements?**

An average GRE score on each section of the test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical) equal to or greater than the 40th percentile.

The MSMS program also accepts MCAT or DAT scores in lieu of the GRE to serve as the entrance exam. In such cases, it is recommended that applicants have a minimal score of 24 on the MCAT, or an academic and science minimal average of 16 on the DAT.

When uploading MCAT or DAT scores to your application, please use the “supplemental material” section.

**How should I choose my recommenders?**

Choose your recommenders wisely. It is important to choose recommenders who are sufficiently familiar with you to address your academic preparation, abilities, and accomplishments.

**Where do I send my transcripts?**

Official transcripts from all the universities you attended must be sent to the Graduate School. Note that you may download unofficial copies of your transcript when completing your application. The MSMS Admissions Committee will use these unofficial copies for evaluating your application. However, the Graduate School will require official copies for admission to the University of Kentucky.

**What is the application fee?**

Currently the application fee for the Graduate School application is $65 for domestic students and $75 for international students. There is no additional application fee for the MSMS program application.

**Can the application fee be waived?**

Since the application fee is a part of the Graduate School application, we are unable to waive the fee.

**When do I have to pay the fee?**
The Graduate School application fee must be paid before the Graduate School application will be finalized and available for review.

**How many students are admitted to the MSMS program each year?**

At the present time, there is no set number of students who are admitted to the program.

*I am planning a visit to the University of Kentucky and would like to tour the College of Medicine and speak with someone about the MSMS program. Whom do I contact?*

Bridget Szczapinski

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