

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our Graduate Program in Molecular, Cellular, and Systemic Physiology at Southern Illinois University. There are currently 7 students in the Ph.D. program and 14 students in the Master's program (M.S.). We have 11 faculty members in the Department of Physiology, who are actively involved in research in the areas of aging, cancer biology, cell physiology, molecular biology, molecular endocrinology, neuroendocrinology, neuropharmacology, neurophysiology, reproductive biology, and reproductive endocrinology. We have a rigorous program that requires students to conduct laboratory research under the direction of a faculty advisor, to write a thesis (M.S.) or dissertation (Ph.D.), to teach at least one semester in the undergraduate laboratories, and to take and pass graduate level courses in order to obtain the advanced degree. To view the specific research areas of our faculty and to learn more about the Department of Physiology, please go to our website at <http://www.siumed.edu/physiology/>. The Guide to Graduate Studies is available online and describes our program in detail.

We are looking for highly motivated individuals interested in conducting scientific research at the laboratory bench. Minimum qualifications for admission into the M.S. degree program are an undergraduate degree in one of the biological sciences with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 or better. For serious consideration, students should have a GPA of 3.0 or better and have taken one year each of physics, mathematics, and chemistry. Highly qualified students (GPA 3.5) may be admitted directly into the Ph.D. program or a student in the Master's program (GPA 3.25) may accelerate into the Ph.D. program if they meet the admissions requirements that are detailed in the Guide to Graduate Studies.

Admissions information for international students is available on SIU Graduate School's website: <http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/admit-international.htm>. To initiate the online application process, click on Graduate School Application or go to <http://www.gradapp.siu.edu> and click on Apply Now. This site also allows you to check the status of your application online.

The Graduate School requires the following information from international students:

1. **Official TOEFL Scores.** International students must have their official TOEFL scores forwarded to the Graduate School, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901-4716.
2. **Financial Statement Form for International Graduate Students.** This form can be downloaded from the Graduate School's website by clicking on Financial Statement Form for International Graduate Students.
3. **Copy of Your Passport Page Listing Your Name and Date of Birth.**

PLEASE NOTE: The name that is listed on your passport must be the same that you enter on the Graduate School application form. If you are admitted, this name will be used on the I-20. All three documents (passport, application form, and I-20) must have the exact same name.

In order to complete your application to the Graduate Program in the Department of Physiology, we require some additional information that will help us evaluate your qualifications and compatibility with our program. **The following information should be submitted to: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901-6512** (by mail):

1. **Official Transcripts** from each college or university that you have attended must be submitted and we will forward to the Graduate School. Please note that the Graduate School does not accept unofficial transcripts.
2. **Official GRE Scores** from the general exam are required.
3. **Financial Support Form** (Do you require financial support?) **supplemental form**
4. **Goal Statement Form** (Why do you want to get an advanced degree in our program?) **supplemental form**
5. **Three Letters of Recommendation** Request letters of recommendation from individuals who can comment on your academic abilities, character, and potential for doing research. (Your references should mail their letters directly to us on official university letterhead.) **supplemental form**
6. **Copy of Your Passport Page Listing Your Name and Date of Birth.** If you are accepted into the program, this information will be used to apply for an I-20.

Financial Assistance: Information on the various types of financial assistance available to graduate students is available online at the Graduate School Website: <http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/financialaid.htm>. The Department of Physiology makes every effort to provide financial assistance to all of its accepted applicants (current assistantships range from \$15,000-\$20,000 for a 12-month appointment and includes a tuition waiver). In order to be guaranteed full consideration for a departmental assistantship, applications must be completed by March 1st preceding the Fall semester in which you wish to matriculate or by October 1st, if you wish to begin in the Spring semester.

If you have any questions regarding the application process or our Graduate Program, please feel free to contact us:

**Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Physiology
School of Medicine
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-6512**

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