

International Admissions for MS Biotechnology and Bioinformatics

Fall 2026 Semester Intake	Classes Start August 24, 2026 (Arrive on August 18, 2026)
Priority Application Period – October 1, 2025– April 1, 2026	Admission Decision returned in 2-3 weeks (estimated)
Late Application Period – April 2 – June 1, 2026	Admission Decision returned in 2-3 weeks (estimated)

Why choose the MS Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Program at CSU Channel Islands?

- Small program with approximately 25 students per class, which means a lot of interaction with professors.
- Several faculty members are from the industry and bring real world experience into the classroom
- **An excellent value at \$979 per unit***
 - Biotechnology emphasis 33 units for a total cost of **\$32,307 USD - (\$16,154 USD per year).**
 - Stem Cell Technology and Laboratory Management (SCTLM) emphasis 35 units **\$34,265 USD (\$17,133 per year)** \$125 Biotech lab fee per course (BIOL 502, 505, 510, 597)
- A public university located in a warm climate in Southern California. 1 hour north of Los Angeles. 10 minutes from the beach. California has an excellent economy and is the tech hub of the USA.
- Program is STEM OPT eligible. Many companies are situated nearby as we are located along the 101 Tech corridor.
- There are opportunities for students in the SCTLM emphasis for CPT. Students selected for an internship are placed in prestigious labs in California (please note internships could be funded or unfunded). Research opportunities are available both on and off campus via independent research courses and internships.
- Full time program with classes offered in the evenings (if living off-campus must provide your own transportation, students are strongly encouraged to live on campus to be able to walk to class. Public buses are limited).

(19 units) Core Courses Required in both Emphases.

BINF 500	DNA and Protein Sequence Analysis	3 units
BIOL 502	Techniques in Genomics & Proteomics	3 units
BIOL 503	Biotechnology Law and Regulation	3 units
BIOL 504	Molecular Cell Biology	3 units
BIOL 505	Molecular Structure	4 units
BIOL 510	Tissue Culture Techniques & Stem Cell Technology	3 units

(8 units) Biotechnology Emphasis Required

BINF 514	Statistical Methods in Computational Biology	3 units
BIOL 601	Seminar in Biotechnology	1 unit
BIOL 600	Team Project	4 units

(10 units) Stem Cell Technology & Laboratory Management (SCTLM) Emphasis Required Courses

BIOL 512	Advanced Topics in Regenerative Medicine	1 unit
BIOL 513	Cell Culture Facility Management	3 units
BIOL 602	Stem Cell Technology Internship	6 units

(6 units) Both emphases choose two electives.

See advisement Sheets at <https://ext.csuci.edu/current-students/program-information/ms-biotech-information.htm>

See application process and admission requirements on page 2

What is the application process?

Applicants submit the application and supporting documents to the International Programs (IP) Office. The IP office conducts the initial review, an outside evaluation is not required except for applicants who only hold a 3-year degree. Applications that meet the minimum CSU admission requirements are sent for review by the Graduate Admissions Committee for MS in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics.

Minimum CSU Admission Requirements** – Please note meeting these requirements only ensures your application will be sent to the Committee. The Committee has higher standards for admission:

- Hold a bachelor's degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. 3- year degrees accepted with a WES evaluation that states degree is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. 180 ECTS units require an evaluation. For applicants with a 3-year degree + an additional PGD or MS degree do not require a WES evaluation. You can check your degree equivalency at: <https://applications.wes.org/degree-equivalency-tool/> If WES states that your degree is equivalent, then you can get a WES evaluation. Most 3-year degrees from Ghana, Uganda and United Kingdom do not need a WES evaluation. Email if you have a 3-year degree and are unsure it is equivalent to a U.S. degree.
- Have a minimum 2.75 out of 4.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA or 2.75 in the last 60 semester units completed (2 years).
- Be in good standing at last institution attended.
- Meet English proficiency requirements – Acceptable exams and scores - TOEFL iBT score of 80, or IELTS score of 6.5, or PTE score of 56, or Duolingo score of 105
- Meet program specific requirements.

Program Specific Requirements and MS Biotech Committee expectations

The Graduate Admission Committee takes a holistic approach in reviewing applicants. All documents an applicant submits are reviewed. Applicants are selected based on who is a best match for the program based on the applicant pool.

Required:

- GRE is not required.
- Applicants should have a degree in Biology or related field. Applicants with degrees from another field who have completed foundation classes in Biology (such as microbiology, genetics, cell biology, molecular biology, biotechnology) may also apply. In such cases, applicant should also have completed basic chemistry coursework.
- Completion of an acceptable lab-based class in Cell and Molecular Biology is required.

Ready to Apply?

CHECKLIST – Documents required for an admission decision. Upload documents in the online application.

- CSUCI International Admissions Application www.Calstate.edu/Apply . Please note we share the online application with the 22 other campuses of the CSU, filter by campus and select “Cal State Channel Islands”
- \$70.00 non-refundable application fee can be paid online when submitting the application.
- **Soft Copies of Transcripts** (aka Individual Mark Sheets from the University). If degree has been awarded, include provisional certificate (certificate must be awarded before start of program). Official copies due Aug 18, 2026
- **English Proficiency Exam** – one of the 4 acceptable exams, soft copies ok for TOEFL, PTE, IELTS, request official Duolingo score to be sent to CSUCI.
- Two letters of recommendation (professional or academic). Can upload PDF letter or email recommenders in application
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Statement of Purpose (aka Personal Statement or Motivation Letter)

I-20 issued 2-3 business days after receipt of the following: Passport, Affidavit form, bank statement required available funds of \$39,622 (estimate \$22,000 living expenses). \$250 deposit towards the first semester tuition & fees.