

Professional Science Master's Degree (PSM) Molecular Biosciences

Informational Webinar

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PSM – Molecular Biosciences Degree
is the only affiliated PSM degree in the state of Washington.



What are the admission requirements?

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in biology, biochemistry, cell biology, chemistry, genetics, microbiology or in a related field.
- A minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- The following pre-requisite courses are recommended: 3 semesters or combination of general biology, microbiology, cell biology, genetics, or molecular biology courses and one semester each of organic chemistry, physics, biochemistry and calculus.
- GRE test is **OPTIONAL**
- **International** students need TOEFL score of at least 100 (internet based)

What is the application process?

- [Submit an online Graduate School General Application](#) and \$75 application fee to the WSU Graduate School.
- Complete video recorded responses to two questions. A link to the questions and to record your responses will be **emailed to you after your application is submitted.**
- 3 letters of recommendation to the WSU Graduate School
- Transcripts of all previous coursework

What are the application deadlines? When will I know the decision?

Applications to the PSM are accepted for each term. The deadlines for each term are below.

ADMISSION TERM	DOMESTIC APPLICANTS <i>(US citizens or permanent residents)</i>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS
Fall	June 1	March 1
Spring	November 1	June 1
Summer	March 1	November 1

It typically takes 2-3 weeks after each deadline for the PSM Admissions Committee to evaluate the applications and notify each of the applicants.

I've been out of school awhile and won't be able to get a reference from a professor.

- Although it is good to get a reference from a professor, the committee realizes that sometimes that isn't possible for students who have been out of school for a number of years.
- Examples of possible referees:
 - Employment supervisors (past and present)
 - Past internship supervisor(s)
 - Professional colleagues
 - Lab Supervisor

My GPA isn't a 3.0 – what are my options?

- A minimum 3.0 GPA is a Graduate School requirement
- Department has a limited option to petition applicants who have GPA lower than 3.0
- In your application – show strengths in other areas
 - Employment/professional experience, references, career goals/personal statement, GRE scores
- Admissions committee may ask you to enroll as **non-degree seeking** first and complete certain courses then re-apply.

I've never taken an online course... how does it work?

- For most of the courses, your classroom will be on **Blackboard Learn**, WSU's learning management system. Check it out at <https://online.wsu.edu/grad/angel.aspx>
- You will be able to order your textbooks online from the WSU library and WSU's bookstore, [The Bookie](#). Some courses, such as those that require lab kits, will automatically send you materials.
- To use Blackboard Learn, you will need Internet access and some free software. Here is a [rundown of all the tech requirements](#).

I plan to continue to work full-time, can I attend school part-time? YES!

FULL-TIME = Minimum of 10 credits per semester

PART-TIME = 9 or fewer credits per semester (minimum of 2 credits per semester)

Approximately 2/3 of PSM students are enrolled part-time

MBIOS Courses: Caution taking two or more “science” courses in your first semester.

How do I find an internship?

- Students are expected to locate their own internship, however resources are provided on the PSM website.
 - **PSM Internship Mentor Website:** <http://www.smb.wsu.edu/academic-training/graduate-studies/professional-science-master's-degree/internship-mentors>
 - **PSM Internship Resources Website:** <http://www.smb.wsu.edu/academic-training/graduate-studies/professional-science-master's-degree/internship>
- Current place of employment? This is allowed as long as your internship mentor is not your supervisor and the department/job is different than where you work.
- What are your career goals? Use this goal to guide you as you research internship options.

How much is tuition?

➤ **Current Online Tuition Rate: 2018-19 Academic Year (Fall/Spring semesters)**

Part-time (9 credits or less):	\$582 per credit
Full-time (10- 18 credits):	\$5,819.50 per semester

➤ Summer session tuition is \$509 per credit

➤ **NOTE: Tuition rate for MKTG 506 and MGMT/ENTRP 588 is \$813 per credit.**

➤ Other costs may include textbooks, Media Rental Fees, Proctoring Fees.

➤ For more information on tuition and fees visit <https://online.wsu.edu/grad/cost.aspx>

➤ **Online tuition is the same regardless of residency.**

➤ **For Pullman Campus** students, tuition is \$589 per credit for Washington residents and \$1,260 per credit for non-residents. For more information visit <https://financialaid.wsu.edu/tuition-expenses/>

How does the internship work?

- 320-hour experience with an identified internship mentor. It may be either paid or unpaid. The hours can be distributed however it best suits your needs and your mentor's.
- Once you have located a mentor/location for your internship, you will need to submit an Internship Proposal/Agreement (available on the PSM website) to receive approval from your committee members. <http://www.smb.wsu.edu/academic-training/graduate-studies/professional-science-master's-degree/psm-forms>
- Internships must be approved by your committee at least 2 weeks before you begin the internship.

Examples of Past PSM Internship Locations and Titles

Internship Location	Internship Title
Association for Molecular Pathology's (AMP)	<i>Building Community in Molecular Diagnostics</i>
ReachBio, LLC	<i>Developing Clonogenic Assays for Assessing the Toxicity of Drug Candidate Compounds in Cancer Cells Versus Bone Marrow Stem Cells and Progenitors</i>
Seattle Central College	<i>An Analysis of the Ready! Set! Transfer! Academy of Student Success</i>
Virtici, LLC	<i>A Capital-Efficient Model for Product Development and Acquisition</i>
WSU SKILD Program	<i>Connecting Innovative Science with Business Applications</i>
M3 Biotechnology	<i>Development of novel therapeutics to treat neurodegenerative diseases: Assay development, implementation, and troubleshooting</i>
OHSU Knight Diagnostic Laboratories	<i>Addressing Challenges during a Transition to Next-Generation Sequencing in a Clinical Genomics Laboratory</i>
Marysville Crime Laboratory	<i>Increasing Efficiency in Forensic DNA Services through the Application of Lean</i>

What type of jobs do PSM graduates get?

Employer	Job Title
Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL)	Research Scientist
VRTICI, Inc.	Research Scientist
Philadelphia Health Management Corp.	HIV Prevention Data Specialist
Promega	QA Scientist
WA State Patrol	Forensic Scientist
LabCorp	Sr. IT Specialist
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals	Oncology Diagnostics Manager
Prevention Genetics	NGS Technician
InBios International, Inc.	Research Associate
sySTEMic, Inc.	Founder/CEO, Research Scientist
NAMSA	Medical Research Manager/Clinical Research Project Management

How do I access the PSM Student Handbooks?

- The student handbooks are available on the PSM website:
<http://www.smb.wsu.edu/academic-training/graduate-studies/professional-science-master's-degree>

How do I go about selecting my committee?

- **MBIOS 583 Professional Skills Seminar** – Students are recommended to take this course during their first semester in the program. Committee member selection is explained in this class. Approved committee members are listed in the student handbook, pages 10-13 (<http://www.smb.wsu.edu/academic-training/graduate-studies/professional-science-master's-degree>)

- **1st or 2nd Semester** -- Select one committee member (chair). By the time of your first annual review (typically done in April each year), 2 committee members needed.
 - Instructor or faculty who have research in area of interest
 - Email a potential committee member identifying yourself as a PSM student. Explain your career goals/interests and internship idea.

How do I know when courses will be offered in future terms?

- Tentative future schedules are distributed each semester
- PSM Website: <http://www.smb.wsu.edu/academic-training/graduate-studies/PSM/curriculum>
- WSU Schedule of Classes: <http://schedules.wsu.edu/>

Questions? Contact Tami Breske (tamara.breske@wsu.edu)

Do I pay the higher tuition for courses with the E_M prefix?

- No -- the PSM program has an agreement with Engineering Management to allow PSM students to enroll in their courses and pay the regular graduate tuition rate.
- You can register for them via *myWSU*.

Is the tuition rate higher for some of the Business courses?

➤ Yes

- MGMT/ENTRP 588 Management of Innovation - \$813 per credit
 - MKTG 506 Marketing Strategy -- \$813 per credit
- How to Enroll – Contact Tami Breske (tamara.breske@wsu.edu) who will contact the department for approval. The College of Business has placed some limitations of enrollment in these courses.

I need permission to get into a class. Who do I contact to get that permission?

- Contact Tami Breske (tamara.breske@wsu.edu). You will only be allowed to register for the sections of classes that are offered on your “assigned” campus (Pullman, Global Campus, Spokane, etc.)
- Only allowed to register in sections on “your” assigned campus (Pullman or Global Campus)

What is the Program of Study and when do I need to submit it to the Graduate School?

- This is the document that is your official curriculum plan/contract. (Available on the Graduate School website <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/facultystaff-resources/18-2/> under FORMS – select “Program of Study Request”)
- Submit at least **2 semesters prior to graduation**, however sooner is strongly recommended.
- List of the courses you will be taking to complete the degree requirements.
- Any changes after Program of Study is submitted (ie: committee member changes, selection of different course) will require a “Program Change” form – also available on Grad School website above.

How do the MBIOS 701 credits work?

- A minimum of 4 credits of MBIOS 701 is required to graduate
- MBIOS 701 credits are referred to as your “Internship” credits
- A minimum of 2 of those credits must be taken during your final semester (the semester you graduate).
- How those credits are distributed is dependent on your needs (ie: financial aid requirements, etc). Often times part-time students enroll in all 4 credits during their final semester.

Can I take a semester off if my work (or personal) schedule becomes more demanding?

- “Application for Graduate Student Leave” form - available on the Graduate School website under forms: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/facultystaff-resources/18-2/>
- Up to one calendar year -- submitted by the 10th day of classes during the semester of leave.
- Signatures are needed from your advisor (committee chair) and the department chair.
- Email form to tamara.breske@wsu.edu who will gather signatures and submit to Graduate School – allow 3 days to gather the signatures.
- Summer enrollment is NOT mandatory.

As an INTERNATIONAL student, will I need to obtain a Social Security Number (SSN)?

- International Students do not need to obtain a Social Security number unless they get employment while here or are paid during their PSM internship.
- Limited to 20 hours (or less) per week of work.
- Non- paid internship does not need a SSN, however your internship will need to be authorized through WSU's International Programs Office by bringing your Internship Agreement to their office for the authorization stamp.
- More information at: <https://ip.wsu.edu/future-students/employment/>

As an INTERNATIONAL student, how do I obtain a Social Security Number (SSN)?

1. If you obtain employment (20 hours or less per week), you will need
 - Job offer letter **from the employer** that includes your name, job title/description, immediate supervisor's name, phone number, employer ID number, hours per week and starting date.
2. Take the letter to the WSU International Programs Office (Bryan Hall, room 108) for their authorization stamp.
3. Bring your letter with the authorization stamp, along with your visa, passport, I-20 and I-194 form to the Social Security office in Lewiston, ID.

Social Security Office Address/Phone Number

Lewiston Social Security Office

1617 19th Avenue

Lewiston, ID 83501

Phone: 877-405-9796

Office Hours: (M, T, Th, F: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm)

(W: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm)