

## Admission Requirements

Prospective applicants should complete the online application available on the Graduate School homepage at [www.valdosta.edu/gradschool/](http://www.valdosta.edu/gradschool/).

### **Regular admission requirements to graduate programs, detailed in the University catalog and on the VSU Web site are:**

1. An earned bachelor's degree from an accredited institution (or its equivalent) with an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 (4.0 scale);
2. Official transcripts of all college-level courses taken;
3. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 500 on the written test or 173 on the computer-based test, required of all international applicants;

### **Additional requirements for admissions to the Master of Science in Biology:**

1. An undergraduate degree in biology or a related field with a grade point average of 2.8 in the major;
2. A one-page Statement of Interest, wherein students describe their interest and reasons for applying to the program;
3. Two letters of recommendation;
4. Thesis Option - A written acknowledgement from one department faculty member who agrees to serve as the student's major advisor, if the student is accepted. Realize that no student will be admitted into the graduate program unless that has previously arranged for a committed research mentor. Prospective students should begin as soon as possible contacting faculty members regarding possible positions in their labs. The best approach here is to read the faculty web pages and determine who is doing research of interest to the applicant and then contacting possible faculty mentors.

### **Admission under Provisional status:**

Students not meeting the minimum admissions criteria may be considered for admissions under a provisional status. Demonstration of exceptional drive or ability as evidenced by letters of recommendation, course work, or interviews will be required for admission under provisional status as well as strong letters of support from faculty members willing to serve as advisors. Students who do not possess a bachelor's degree in a biologically related field must have at least 24 semester credits in courses related to biology with at least 16 credits at the junior/senior level, chemistry up through organic, and two semesters of physics. Students not meeting the minimum curriculum requirements may request special permission to complete these courses while pursuing their master's degree, but they must present a curriculum plan to the coordinator of the master's

program detailing the courses needed and when they will be taken. Once course deficiencies are completed, provisional status will be lifted. A provisional student must maintain a 3.0 GPA during their first nine semester credit hours to attain normal graduate status.