

Common applicant questions

Thank you for your interest in the USF CMMB program. Our graduate program is highly interdisciplinary and offers exceptional training across several disciplines to prepare applicants for a wide range of scientific careers in industry, academia, and government. Nearly all our faculty are funded by the National Institutes of Health and is performing state of the art biomedical research. We offer highly competitive assistantships with tuition waivers all within the beautiful setting of Tampa.

Below are some common questions typically asked by initial applicants considering the CMMB graduate program:

Is the GRE required?

No, it is optional. However, for international applicants it is recommended. Applicants with minimal research experience would benefit from submitting competitive GRE scores.

Should I already have a mentor identified?

Although not totally required, it is highly recommended that applicants strongly familiarize themselves with the faculty and their research interests. In addition, applicants should identify several faculty members as potential mentors.

What is the current stipend amount?

For 2021-2022, the yearly stipend amount is \$18,723.04 for Non-Thesis MS, \$19,485.46 for Thesis MS, and \$26,700.48 for Ph.D. This is provided with teaching or research assistantship. Please keep in mind that these stipends amount can change annually.

Is health insurance provided?

Yes, all graduate assistants in the program are eligible for health insurance that is primarily paid for by USF. The 2020-2021 individual annual premium is \$2,915.00. USF will pay up to \$2,756.00 of the annual premium for eligible GAs with at least a .25 FTE. Students will be responsible for the difference in annual premium of \$159.00. Further information on health insurance can be found here:

<https://www.usf.edu/hr/benefits/insurance/graduate-assistants.aspx>

Am I responsible for paying my tuition costs?

Most of our students are on a teaching assistantship with a stipend and tuition waiver but are responsible for certain fees that are approximately \$1500 per year. Tuition waivers are limited to 10 semesters for Ph.D. students and 5 semesters for M.S. Thesis students.

Is teaching required as part of my assistantship?

Typically, yes. Most of our students have a teaching assistantship but there are opportunities for a research assistantship based on PI available funds. In recent years,

many students have received research assistantships. In addition, USF does offer a multitude of other scholarships for graduate students that can be found at:

<https://www.usf.edu/admissions/graduate/admission-information/cost-of-attendance/scholarships.aspx>