



# gpibs

an interdisciplinary approach to graduate education

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### ADMISSIONS

#### **Q: How do I apply to GPiBS?**

A: You can access the free application on our [GPiBS website](#). Step-by-Step instructions for completing are available [here](#).

#### **Q: How much is the application fee?**

A: There is **NO** application fee associated with the application

#### **Q: Do I need to take a subject GRE test?**

A: No, the GRE is not required, though you may submit your score if you prefer.

#### **Q: Do I need to identify a mentor before applying?**

A: No, the program includes laboratory rotations that will allow you to find a mentor. Because of this, contacting faculty in advance will not be necessary.

#### **Q: What supporting documentation is required with the application?**

A: In addition to the application itself, you will provide official undergraduate transcripts for all colleges or universities you have attended, three letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and a curriculum vitae (C.V.). You may find descriptions of these documents on our [application page](#).

#### **Q: Is there a preferred format for the personal statement, curriculum vitae, or recommendation letters?**

A: Submitted letters of recommendation should be on letterhead from the recommender's institution/organization. There is no preferred format for the personal statement or curriculum vitae. Descriptions of these documents may be found on our [application page](#).

**Q: Where do I send my supporting documentation?**

A: Transcripts are submitted to the Office of Admission and Records at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center using the institutional code **6902**. All other documents are submitted directly to the application itself.

**Q: How can I find out if you have received my supporting documents?**

A: Applicants can monitor the progress of their application using the application portal. The portal will state whether your transcripts and letters of recommendation have been received. Though, you may contact the GPIBS office to ensure that your application is complete.

**Q: Who do I contact if I am having technical difficulties with the online application?**

A: If you experience technical difficulties with the application, you may contact the Office of Admission and Records at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center at [admissions@ouhsc.edu](mailto:admissions@ouhsc.edu).

**Q: What is the institutional and department code for GPIBS?**

A: The institutional code for the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is **6902**, and the departmental information in the application is found under the “Graduate College” under “Graduate Medicine - Graduate Program in Biomedical Science (**1200U**).”

**Q: What are the academic requirements/prerequisites?**

A: Applicants must have a Last 60 credit hours GPA of 3.0 or greater and an undergraduate degree in a relevant major.

**Q: Do I need research experience?**

A: A strong applicant will have multiple research experiences in the biomedical sciences, a strong understanding of the rationale, experimentation, and findings of their research projects. While not all applicants will have a great deal of research experience, they should have an enthusiastic and motivated attitude towards research.

**Q: I am an international student – How do I send you my official international transcripts?**

A: All international transcripts must be submitted to World Education Services (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) for evaluation. These evaluations must be on a course-by-course basis. Descriptions of these services are on our [application page](#).

**Q: As an international student who should I contact if I have questions?**

A: Many of your questions concerning international students can be answered on the [International Student Services](#) site. We also have a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for international students on our webpage. If you do not find the information you need, please do not hesitate to reach out to the GPIBS office.

If you have additional unanswered questions, you may contact the GPIBS office at [GPIBS@ouhsc.edu](mailto:GPIBS@ouhsc.edu).

## **PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

### **Q: What departments/programs are involved with GPiBS?**

A: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Microbiology & Immunology, Neuroscience, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pathology, and Physiology

### **Q: Is there a fellowship or stipend for GPiBS students?**

A: All students in good academic standing receive an annual stipend of \$28,000/year.

### **Q: Do GPiBS students have to be a Teaching Assistant (TA) to receive the stipend?**

A: No, there is no teaching assistantship associated with our program.

### **Q: Are there any other benefits for GPiBS students?**

A: There is a myriad of benefits for our students. In short, the GPiBS program has no application fee, pays each student a \$36,000 yearly stipend, provides health insurance (\$3,500), pays all tuition and fees (\$9,000), provides access to the student health and wellness clinic, and the student fitness club.

### **Q: What are the courses that you must complete in the first year?**

A: A comprehensive list of all the courses, including the required courses students are expected to take, may be found under the [GPiBS curriculum](#).

### **Q: How many lab rotations are you allowed to take?**

A: During the Fall and Spring semesters, students participate in 6-week long lab rotations with faculty mentors of their choice. Three unique lab rotations are required, though six rotation sessions are available. GPiBS students will spend their mornings in class and their afternoons in the lab, getting hands-on experience.

## **AFTER PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE**

### **Q: I have been accepted. Now what?**

A: Congratulations on being accepted into GPiBS! First, you will receive an official acceptance letter from the Graduate College after accepting your initial offer from our office. You will also be receiving an email from the Graduate College with additional information and steps you will need to take. Please begin completing the requested tasks as soon as possible to help the process move more smoothly.

### **Q: Where is the closest airport to campus?**

A: The closest airport is the Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. You can find additional information on their [website](#).

### **Q: What if I don't have someone to pick me up from the airport?**

A: There are some [transportation options](#) listed on the airport website. [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#) is another commonly used transportation option. Please be aware a credit/debit card may be required. Please notify the [GPiBS office](#) of your need for transportation as well as your flight schedule and expected time of landing to see if we might be able to help.

## GENERAL RESOURCE LIST

### Q: How can I find housing?

A: Temporary housing is available at the [Medical Inn](#). For Discount Rate: State that you were referred by HSC Student Affairs – Tanya Mustin. Here are some resources for finding long-term housing: [University Village Apartments](#), [College Student Apartments](#), [A Better Life OKC](#), [Apartments.com](#), [ApartmentGuide.Com](#), [Zillow.com](#), and many others. *\*\*Please keep in mind most housing options will not have furniture so be sure to ask if it is furnished/unfurnished and what appliances will be in your home. You also need to ask if you need to set up any utilities such as electric, gas, or electric prior to move-in as many times this has to be scheduled. These may also require a deposit as well. \*\**

### Q: Where can I find food/groceries near campus?

A: The following grocery stores are within 2 miles of campus: Sunshine Grocery Cash Saver 1149 N Martin Luther King Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73117; [Homeland](#) 1108 NW 18th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73106; Indian Grocery Store 1901 E Reno Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73117; [Family Dollar](#) 2036 NE 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 7311; and [Market at Commonplace](#) 1325 N Walker Ave Ste 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73103. There are also grocery delivery services available through [Wal-Mart](#), [Amazon](#), [Shipt](#), and [Instacart](#).

### Q: What if I don't have a car?

A: [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) are commonly used transportation options. Please be aware a credit/debit card may be required. Oklahoma City has an extensive [bus system](#) with over 25 separate routes that can get you around the OKC metro as well as locations outside of the metro including [Edmond](#), [Norman](#), [Midwest City](#), etc.

### Q: How do I connect with other students and get involved on campus?

A: The [HSC Student Affairs](#) office has a multitude of ways to meet other students and to get involved on campus. Be sure to visit their page for [First-Year Student Programs](#).

### Q: Are there any banks near campus?

A: There are many banks in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, but the following banks have a location within 1 mile of campus: [BancFirst](#) (on-campus location available), [MidFirst Bank](#), [First Fidelity](#), [IBC Bank](#), and [Chase Bank](#).

### Q: Can I get a cell phone without a contract or a credit history?

A: There are many cell phone options available without a contract or credit check. The following are only a few of the options available. [Cricket](#), [Hello Mobile](#), [AT&T](#), [Boost](#), [Ting](#), [Tello](#), [Pure Talk](#), and [Mint](#).

**Q: What is there to see and do in Oklahoma City in my free time?**

A: [Oklahoma City](#) is a thriving metro with so much to offer our graduate student body. The city itself has a rich culture of [diverse cuisine and restaurants](#), [museums](#), and a ton of [fun activities](#). With the inclusions of national sports teams, our students have many opportunities to get out of the lab/classroom and enjoy the OKC atmosphere. We have new 40-acre [urban park](#) that is located near downtown OKC. We have multiple [outdoor recreation areas](#) including lakes, nature parks, hiking trails, skate parks, etc. If you are interested in leaving the metro for some outdoor nature adventures, we have over 700 [mountains](#) throughout the state.

**Q: What is the weather like in Oklahoma?**

A: Oklahoma City enjoys a favorable, seasonally varied climate throughout the year. Summers are sunny and warm, winters are bright and cold, autumn is crisp, and springs are often wet. During the average year, skies are clear or partly sunny 65 percent of the time. [VisitOKC.com](#) has additional weather-related information. The [National Weather Service](#) is another great asset for Oklahoma weather information.