GRADUATE STUDY in Food Science and Technology concerns the application of biological, physical and engineering sciences to further our understanding of, and to improve the quality, safety, nutritional, and economic value of foods and beverages.

The Department of Food Science and Technology (FST) offers graduate programs leading to the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Students completing advanced degrees have excellent employment opportunities that include research and development in industry and government; teaching and research in colleges and universities; regulation of food quality and safety through governmental agencies and within companies; and management of food processing plants.

Jump to Admissions Process

FACILITIES in the Department of Food Science and Technology on the Oregon State University (OSU) campus include well-equipped laboratories with advanced analytical instrumentation, and pilot plants for instruction and research. The pilot plant facilities include a dairy center, sensory center, research brewery, food processing plant, and winery. Through direct and collaborative arrangements, faculty and students have access to analytical services on campus that include mass spectrometry, cell structure, flow cytometry, DNA and protein sequencing, DNA and peptide synthesis, confocal microscopy and computer support.

Off campus facilities include:

The Seafood Laboratory, located in Astoria, Oregon, focuses on marine and related resources;

The Food Innovation Center, located in Portland, Oregon focuses on technical development services which include: concept and product development, business and market planning, process and packaging technology, and sensory and consumer analysis.

Please explore the Areas of Thesis Research in FST
https://foodsci.oregonstate.edu/foodsci/areas-thesis-research
PROGRAMS OF STUDY: M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are offered in Food Science.

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE:

M.S. candidates are expected to complete their degree requirements in approximately two academic years. All M.S. degree programs require a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours including the thesis (6-12). All Masters students must conduct scholarly research and in a professional and ethical manner. Only a thesis option is offered.

All Master’s students are required to serve as a teaching assistant for two graded credits during their tenure as graduate students.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE:

A master’s degree or equivalent is required before entering the Ph.D. program. Rare exceptions, on a case by case basis, may be considered for applicants having post-baccalaureate training and/or experience judged to be equivalent to an M.S. degree. Ph.D. candidates generally complete their degree requirements in about four academic years (a minimum of 108 total credits).

All Ph.D. candidates are required to serve as a teaching assistant for four graded credits during their tenure as graduate students.

There is no rigid credit requirement, but usually 75-90 graduate credit hours are needed beyond the Master’s degree. Of this total, 36 credit hours should be devoted to the preparation of the thesis.

All graduate student programs of study submitted to the Graduate School must consist of, at a minimum, 50% graduate stand-alone courses. The remaining credits may be the 500 component of 400/500 slash courses.

MINOR FIELDS OF STUDY

The purpose of the minor is to provide supporting coursework in basic sciences (chemistry, biochemistry, and microbiology) and applied sciences (horticulture, bioresource engineering, and business administration) for coursework and thesis research in Food Science. A minor is optional, but if a minor is declared, a minimum of 15 credits of graduate coursework must be included on a Master’s program and 18 credits must be included on a doctoral program. The thesis committee must include a member from the minor department.

MINIMUM GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in course work or unsatisfactory progress in thesis research is cause for dismissal from the graduate program.

The Admission Process

The Food Science and Technology graduate program at Oregon State University is designed for students who have completed an undergraduate program in Food Science and Technology or one that is similar and meets the OSU minimum academic requirements. Students from related fields such as chemistry, biology, and microbiology are majors that could be compatible to research in Food Science. The undergraduate preparatory coursework should include general chemistry, biology, calculus, organic chemistry, microbiology and general physics.
IMPORTANT: Due to faculty interests, space availability, and limited financial resources, some otherwise qualified students may not be accepted. Because no student can be admitted without a prior commitment by a professor to serve as major advisor, applicants are expected to contact potential advisors with shared research interests. This is best done on an individual basis.

See Search Professors / Research Interest to learn about specific research and funding possibilities concurrent with a formal application.

Students desiring to do graduate study in Food Science and Technology must meet the minimum academic requirements of the OSU Graduate School. Admission to OSU is competitive and meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission.

TIMELINE: In general, applications should be submitted at least two terms in advance of the term in which the student wishes to enter. There is not a set deadline, FST applications may be received at any time. The academic calendar consists of four terms (quarters): fall, winter, spring, summer. New students should plan to enter fall term (mid-September) if possible, since many courses are given in sequence beginning fall term. An application is valid during the academic year in which you make application. A student may defer matriculation to a following term if not admitted upon first request. However, an international student may be required to submit new financial documents prior to having a new I-20 issued. To do so, please submit the application change form online http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/forms.php#changeterm.

Applications are submitted online through the following link: http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions

All admissions application forms are available on the graduate admissions web site. Although printable forms are not provided, please send a message to graduate.admissions@oregonstate.edu or a note to the following postal address to see if alternative arrangements can be made.

Graduate School, Oregon State University
Heckart Lodge, 2900 SW Jefferson Ave., Corvallis, Oregon 97331

The Department of Food Science and Technology will receive a copy of your application through graduate admissions.

Application materials should include: application form; official transcripts; personal statement that includes your research interest; three letters of professional reference; official GRE and TOEFL scores (unofficial scores may be submitted for preliminary review); resume/curriculum vitae (CV); certification of finances and evidence of funding (for international students only).

University graduate admission information is available at: http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions
For fee information see: https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions/process
A one time matriculation fee of $350 is charged at the first term at OSU.
International student information: http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/international.html

GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores are required by the Department of Food Science and Technology (www.gre.org). Official results must be submitted with the formal application materials. A combined score of 300 (on the new exam) for the verbal and quantitative aptitude sections is considered minimal for admission by the department.

Graduate applications are reviewed by the departmental Graduate Committee. Applicants are recommended for admission on the basis of undergraduate record, personal/research statement, letters of reference, test scores (GRE and TOEFL), resume/CV, and are only accepted if a faculty member is prepared to make a commitment in advance to serve as a major advisor, and to provide financial support if necessary. Applicants with journal or book chapter publications are encouraged to include them in the application. Applicants that meet initial screening have the option of maintaining an active application for the academic year in which the application is received, however, the applicant must officially defer the application each term. https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/admissions/after-you-apply
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EDUCATION COSTS:

Graduate tuition for the academic year 2019-2020 (not including summer) is approximately $15,000 for 3 terms, for in state Oregon residents and $25,000 (3 terms) for full-time non-resident graduate students who are not offered graduate assistantships. Tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year has not yet been released. See the following for updates https://fa.oregonstate.edu/budget/tuition-fees/2019-2020-tuition-fee-schedules

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Loans, Grants, Scholarships and Work Study: For U.S. citizens or permanent residents obtain information at the following web site:  http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/review_aidtypes

Graduate Assistantships:

Graduate Assistantship offer are of employment with a specific faculty member. Graduate employees are represented by the Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE) union. CGE website: https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/resource/872, CGE resources: https://hr.oregonstate.edu/employees/administrators-supervisors/graduate-employee-cge-contract-resources

Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) are employed to conduct research for a faculty member. The research project may or may not be directly connected to your graduate thesis work. GRAs receive a tuition waiver, but must pay a portion of the mandatory student fees and health insurance premium.

Most FST graduate students are supported as GRAs by their major advisors. Because this type of support is limited, applicants should contact potential advisors to inquire about the availability of such assistantships early in the admission process. https://foodsci.oregonstate.edu/foodsci/food-science-technology-research

In evaluating applications, consideration is given to the extent and quality of previous academic work, evidence of research ability and intellectual capacity, and promise of productive scholarship. The research grant market is highly competitive, and funding agencies expect results, thus your professors need the most motivated graduate assistants who are capable of getting the work done, communicating results, and being a team player.

GRA salary ranges from approximately $1,220 - $2,000 per month for and incoming M.S. student, depending on the amount of effort expected FTE (full time equivalency). FTE can range from 0.30 to 0.49

For more information, please contact:

Food.Science@oregonstate.edu
Department of Food Science and Technology
100 Wiegand Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97301-6602
1-541-737-3131; 1-800-823-2357

Find us on the web at: foodsci.oregonstate.edu
Instagram:  https://www.instagram.com/oregonstatefoodscience/?hl=en
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BEAVER.FST/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1NdpxXk-8yl-c1M9-B7fCw?view_as=subscriber