

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

Applicants with questions are urged to contact Dr. Nicole Donofrio (ndonof@udel.edu 302-831-2531).

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURE

It is the department's policy not to accept a graduate applicant unless a faculty member possessing adequate financial support is interested in advising the student. *For this reason, formal application should be delayed until such time as a tentative agreement of support is reached with a potential advisor. This also means that the applicant must take primary responsibility for guiding the application process.*

Step 1: Identify a Faculty Advisor

Prior to officially applying, contact potential advisors in your area(s) of interest to determine if he/she has research assistantships or teaching assistantships available. This should be done well in advance of application deadlines. Faculty areas of research can be found at <http://canr.udel.edu/our-faculty/plsc-faculty/> (if the hyperlink does not work, copy and paste it into your browser). Contact faculty members by phone or e-mail; be sure to include a statement of introduction and a resume for review. Applicants should follow-up with a repeat e-mail if a response is not received in a reasonable amount of time (~2 weeks). Only if a potential match is found should the applicant proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Officially apply for admission

Apply online at <http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/apply/> (if the hyperlink does not work, copy and paste it into your browser). Our department's official dates for applying for the Fall semester are July 1 for priority consideration and **September 1** as the absolute deadline. Application dates for the **Spring** semester are **December 1** for priority consideration and **February 19** as the absolute deadline.

At the request of a faculty member, the department's Graduate Studies Committee will review an application and make a recommendation to the Department Chair. ***Please understand that applicants are not reviewed for possible acceptance unless a potential advisor has an interest in advising a specific student and explicitly requests that an evaluation be conducted. This means that applicants should check with potential advisors to determine the status of their application.*** The Chair makes the final decision on whether or not to admit a student.

If a decision is made to admit, the student will receive letter of acceptance from the graduate office and an offer letter from the department outlining responsibilities, assistant type and funding level, health benefits, and other important information.

Best of luck to you!