

Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program at Colorado State University
CHANNEL 2 MS or PhD DIRECT ADMISSIONS - STRUCTURED STATEMENT-OF-PURPOSE FORM
(Application for Fall 2025 enrollment)

Applicant Name (Last, First)

Part 1 – Your prior research experiences. In the space available below (up to 4,000 characters maximum), describe your previous experiences in research that both motivated and prepared you to pursue a MS or PhD degree. Please use the following guidance:

- First, broadly describe your hands-on laboratory experience(s) and passion for research.
- Second, expand on the one (1) research project that you have completed or contributed to that you consider the most significant. Include brief statements about the significance of the problem you studied, the experimental design, and a summary of the main findings. Make sure to clarify your contribution to the project.
- Third, if your prior research experiences resulted in conference presentations (oral or poster), or a thesis, or manuscripts, peer-reviewed publications, etc., list and briefly describe the one (1) you consider the most significant research output. Also, specify your contribution to this product.
- Fourth, conclude by writing a few sentences reflecting on how your research experience(s) prepared you and fueled your desire to carry out MS or PhD-level research in Cell and Molecular Biology.

Part 2 – Your prior professional, life experiences, and other transferrable skills. In the space available below (up to 3,500 characters maximum), describe your previous professional experiences, as well as broader life experiences, leadership, and other valuable transferrable skills that will help you succeed in graduate school. Please use the following guidance:

- Describe skills you have that will support your journey to the MS or PhD (e.g., time management, teamwork, problem solving, resilience, critical thinking, leadership, mentorship, community service, etc.). Provide examples of such skills and articulate how they may be transferrable and helpful to the work you wish to carry out in your graduate studies.
- Explain how your lived experiences, broadly defined, have aided or positively impacted your scientific and academic path. If your journey included challenges (e.g., poor health or disabilities, being a first-generation college student, or from a low socio-economic upbringing) that negatively impacted, restricted, or delayed your research development, include a description of what those challenges were and how you managed or overcame them.

Part 3 – Your academic preparation for advanced coursework in Cell and Molecular Biology. In the space available below (up to 2,000 characters maximum), describe your preparation for academic success in graduate school. Please use the following guidance:

- Provide evidence that you have a strong potential for future success in graduate coursework that will support your research activity. Base your discussion on 2-3 courses you took previously and how you feel they would be helpful in your MS or PhD coursework and research.
- Describe any additional and relevant academic accomplishments that may not be reflected in your transcript(s) (e.g., awards, scholarships, other recognitions and achievements).
- If your journey included substantial challenges that negatively impacted your performance in coursework, include a description of what those hurdles were and how you managed or overcame them.

Part 4 (Channel 2). Your interests in the research opportunities available through the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program. In the available space below (3,000 characters maximum), describe your interest in specific research areas covered by the program. In addition, describe your specific interests in the research programs of our faculty members using one of the two models below that best applies to your Channel 2 Direct Admission application:

Direct Admission to a specific lab: For the faculty member who is sponsoring your Channel 2 Direct Admission application, explain in specific terms why you are attracted to their research program and how it aligns with your scientific interests.

Direct Admission without a pre-arranged advisor: If your Channel 2 Direct Admission application is sponsored by an external funding source (such as a fellowship from a foundation, veteran benefits, or foreign government) you may not have an assigned advisor yet, and you would be eligible for lab rotations during your first year in the CMB program. If this is your case, then for three (3) of our CMB faculty members, explain in specific terms why you are attracted to their research programs and how these align with your scientific interests. You can find links to the many CMB-affiliated faculty at this [link](#).

Part 5 - Your alignment with the broader mission of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program.

The CMB Program has [broader mission statement and community values](#) that together promote excellence in research and higher education. We are committed to serving students from a variety of backgrounds, educational systems, and life experiences. In the available space below (up to 2,000 characters maximum), please tell us in your own words how your personal values are aligned with the broader mission of the CMB program. Feel free to include examples of how your prior life experiences demonstrate that you share a strong alignment with our broader goals and how you could contribute to our community.

Part 6 – Your reasons and motivation for pursuing your graduate studies specifically at Colorado State University. In the available space below (up to 2,000 characters maximum), highlight any additional reasons for applying to the MS or PhD degree in Cell & Molecular Biology at Colorado State University. We are particularly interested in learning about factors that distinguish our program from other similar graduate programs at other universities:

- Describe any specific or unique aspects of the CMB program (e.g., specific curriculum, unique research opportunities, program values) that you are most attracted to.
- Describe any additional external factors that are important to you, but that are not directly related to research or academics. This may include proximity to family or friends, desire to relocate to Colorado, affinity to recreational opportunities in our area, personal reasons, or anything else that makes the CMB program, CSU, and/or Fort Collins especially attractive to you and will support your wellness and overall success.

Part 7 (Channel 2) – Your external source of funding. Given that you are applying for admission through Channel 2, with direct admission to the CMB program, you need to have an external source of funding to support your studies in the MS or PhD program. In the space provided below, describe in specific terms what will be your external funding source.

- Typical examples of acceptable external funding sources include: External fellowships provided by governmental entities or research foundations; Financial support from the US military offered to active service members or veterans; GRA or GTA funding managed by a CMB faculty member. Note that personal wealth or family financial support are not acceptable funding sources. Student educational loans are also not acceptable.
- Alternatively, applicants may provide evidence that they have already applied for funding from an external source, but the outcome of the application is not yet known at the time of CMB application (e.g., email notification from a foundation acknowledging receipt of your scholarship application). Note that in such cases, the CMB admission decision will be conditioned on the final confirmation of the external funding availability.