Admission decisions are based on prior academic performance, letters of reference, and the applicant's statement about background and purpose. Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test are considered if applicants choose to include them. Students need not have a master's degree to begin the PhD program. Students admitted without a master's degree may choose to be granted an MS or the MCS while working toward the doctorate.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.