Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning graduate study in Biology at New Mexico State University. I am pleased that you are considering our department as a place to continue your education and am looking forward to reviewing your application. The selection of a graduate program that meets your specific needs and career objectives is an important decision and one that I know you are giving careful consideration. I have enclosed, along with the necessary application materials, information about our programs, faculty, and the university that should help you reach an informed decision. We also have a web site you can visit---http://www.cs.nmsu.edu/~biology

Probably the most important element in ensuring that your graduate study meets your personal needs and desires is the selection of a research mentor whose area of expertise is compatible with your interests. For this reason, please carefully consider the research interests of our faculty and list up to three, any one of whom you feel would be a suitable research mentor for your studies. You will find among our faculty, leading scientists in many areas of biology and I hope several with research interests compatible with your own. You are especially encouraged to directly contact any of the faculty to find out what opportunities exist in their individual labs.

I realize that, as for most applicants for graduate study, the possibilities for financial support are also an important consideration in your decision. Almost all of our approximately 60 graduate students have some type of financial support. This support includes teaching assistantships and fellowships funded by the university, and research assistantships funded by research grants to our faculty from many of the federal and state research funding agencies. You will also wish to investigate fellowship programs such as the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. To ensure that your application for admission and NMSU financial aid are given the most complete consideration, please apply as early as possible. If you wish to be considered for support through the Department of Biology, applications must be complete by October 4 for Spring and by February 4 for Fall.

Your application will travel most quickly through the inevitable "red tape" if you proceed as follows:
ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD:

A. Send to the Graduate Coordinator, Biology Department, Box 30001/MSC 3AF:
   1) a statement of your educational objectives and research interests.
   2) the Graduate Advisor form (enclosed). You will not be admitted into the Biology Program until you have been accepted by a Biology Department Faculty member.
   3) the Application for Financial Support (enclosed), if you wish to be considered for a graduate assistantship.
   4) an unofficial transcript from all the colleges or universities you have attended.
   5) unofficial scores on the Graduate Record Examination, if you have taken them.*
   6) three personal references (forms enclosed), each with a supporting letter attached.

IF YOU ARE A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT:

A. Send to the Graduate School, Box 30001/MSC 3G:
   (enclosed Graduate School check off list):
   1) the application for admission (enclosed).
   2) the required application fee ($15.00).
   3) 2 copies of official transcripts from all the colleges or universities you have attended (sealed in registrar’s envelope)

B. Have sent to the Graduate School
   1) your official scores on the Graduate Record Examination, if you have taken them.*

*The Biology Department does not require GRE scores for admission; however, individual professors may require GRE scores prior to acceptance. Check with your proposed mentors about providing GRE scores.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN, APPLICATION SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH:

Center for International Programs
Box 30001, Dept. 3567
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-0001
USA

Please follow the checklist of application procedures on the enclosed letter from the Center for International Programs.

Again, I am pleased that you are considering graduate study in biology at New Mexico State University. If I can provide you with more information about our university, our department, or its faculty, please let me know. I wish you great success in your graduate studies and in your future career, and hope that you will decide that New Mexico State University offers the place and the people that will best meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Laura Huenneke, Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman