Thank you for your interest in pursuing graduate studies in my research lab at Cal-State Fullerton. I do not always have space or funding for new students but I do try to make space for well-qualified applicants. The best way to find out if there are openings for the upcoming year is to email me (pstapp@fullerton.edu).

What makes a good M.S. application to Cal-State Fullerton and my lab?

- a good sense of one's research interests and goals informed by relevant coursework and direct, hands-on, relevant experience (plus your interests should overlap at least somewhat with mine)
- a good academic record, e.g., GPA > 3.0, GRE scores >70th percentile
- strong, supportive letters of recommendation from professors or supervisors who work in your research area and know you well based on your academic abilities or research experience

What qualities should you have to be successful in my lab?

Successful students:

- make their research and graduate program their top priority
- are willing to work hard and to learn independently, without direct supervision
- are proactive in gaining new tools (e.g. GIS, statistics, molecular methods) that might be needed to conduct their research
- are naturally strong writers or are willing to work and receive criticism to become better
- are genuinely interested in their study organisms/system, as well as the broader questions that frame their work (and thus are willing to read the primary literature on those topics)
- are willing to teach during the academic year (most of our students work as TAs/GAs)
- are willing to apply for internal and external funding to help support their work
- have a good sense of humor and enjoy working in the field/lab

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks,

Dr. Paul Stapp