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

Applicants must provide the following.

- Completed application form.
- Unofficial transcript(s). If admitted, official transcripts will be required before enrollment. For international students, all academic records should bear the original stamp or seal of the institution and the signature of a school official. Documents not in English must be accompanied by a complete, literal, English translation, certified by the issuing institution.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores (verbal and quantitative) from Educational Testing Services (the university's institutional code is 6681).
- Statement of purpose.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores for applicants whose first language is not English.

Admission to the department is competitive and is based on an applicant's previous coursework, research, and/or industrial experience. The admissions committee looks for evidence that an applicant has demonstrated qualities such as creativity, self-initiative, dedication, and perseverance exhibited by successful PhD or master's degree students.

Applicants must have earned a four-year baccalaureate degree (BS or BSE) in chemical engineering or a related science or engineering discipline, such as chemistry, biochemistry, biological engineering, environmental science, atmospheric science, materials science, mathematics, and physics. An MS is not a prerequisite for admission to the PhD program. Applicants to the PhD program are expected to have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in work for their undergraduate degree.