

Mechanical Engineering, BSE

Combined Programs

BSE/MS in Mechanical Engineering

A Bachelor of Science/Master of Science combined degree program is available for qualified University of Iowa undergraduate students. This allows students to complete an MS in two or three semesters after completion of their BSE degree. Those in the combined degree program receive a BSE when all requirements have been completed, and then become MS students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME).

The Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) combined degree program is primarily intended for students interested in pursuing the MS without thesis. However, the MS thesis option can be pursued in instances where students have been conducting research under the supervision of an ME faculty member since at least the summer following their junior year, and an ME faculty member is willing to advise them and serve as committee chair for their final exam.

Interested students should discuss the combined degree program with their advisor during their third year. Applications should be submitted during the second semester of their third year and before the start of their fourth year (two-semester blended model); see the U2G Program on the Department of Mechanical Engineering website. However, single-semester admits are allowed and must adhere to the application deadlines and other program requirements.

Accepted students are expected to have a minimum University of Iowa cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.25 and maintain this GPA throughout their time in the program. Undergraduate students whose UI cumulative GPA falls below this minimum are removed from the combined program.

Students may contact any ME faculty member to inquire about participation in the U2G combined degree program, research opportunities, and financial support.

Program Benefits

Students may apply up to 12 s.h. of graduate-level coursework toward both their BSE and MS degrees. However, credit may not be applied to courses taken prior to admission to the combined degree program. Mechanical engineering courses eligible for graduate credit have a prefix of ME and are numbered 4100 or above, except for ME:4186 Enhanced Design Experience. The courses selected must fulfill MS coursework requirements and be applicable to BSE electives.

Students who select the thesis option can begin work on their MS thesis research with a faculty advisor during their fourth year of undergraduate studies.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores are not required for admission to the combined degree program. Students are assessed undergraduate tuition and fees until their BSE has been conferred; then, students are assessed graduate tuition and fees, and they may be eligible for graduate assistantships.

Financial Support

Departmental funding preference is given to PhD students. Students can discuss financial support possibilities with their advisor.

BSE/MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering

The combined BSE in mechanical engineering/MS in civil and environmental engineering enables undergraduate students majoring in mechanical engineering to begin work toward the MS in civil and environmental engineering while completing the bachelor's degree. Students admitted to the program may count 9 s.h. of coursework toward both the BSE and MS degree requirements. They also may count an additional 3 s.h. toward the MS degree requirements before they have been awarded the BSE. See the MS in civil and environmental engineering in the catalog.