The Master of Science program in mechanical engineering requires a minimum of 30 s.h. of coursework and research, including a minimum of 12 s.h. in mechanical engineering courses (prefix ME) numbered 5000 or above. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 in graduate work used to satisfy their requirements to earn the degree. The course plan should be approved by their advisor prior to registration each semester. All students choose either a thesis or nonthesis program.

The requirements for the MS may be completed within one calendar year. However, students with assistantship duties or other constraints may take up to two calendar years to complete their degree. Students must complete ENGR:7270 Engineering Ethics during their first fall semester in the program. They must register for ME:6191 Graduate Seminar: Mechanical Engineering each fall and spring semester until successful completion of their final examination or thesis defense; credit in these courses does not substitute for regular coursework or research credit hours. For students who select the thesis option, normally 6 s.h., and no more than 9 s.h. of credit for thesis research is counted toward degree requirements in ME:6199 Research: Mechanical Engineering MS Thesis.

Thesis students must be successful in their final examination. The exam is administered by a student's committee, which consists of at least three faculty members, including at least one with a primary appointment in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The nonthesis option does not include a final exam.