

# Mechanical Engineering Graduate Admissions FAQs

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## **Q: When are the graduate school application deadlines for Mechanical Engineering?**

A: Mechanical Engineering admits students 2 times per year. Application deadlines:

- Fall Semester: January 15<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Semester: September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Q: How do I apply to graduate school in Mechanical Engineering?**

A: Apply online through the [Graduate Studies website](#).

## Q: What are the application requirements?

A: The University requires the following. Refer to the [Graduate Studies website](#) for more information.

- **Application Fee**
- **Official Transcripts**
- **Ecclesiastical Endorsement**
- **GPA**
- **IERF Evaluation** (International Students only)
- **TOEFL or IELTS exam** (International Students only)

In addition to University requirements, the Department of Mechanical Engineering requires the following:

- **BS degree** in Mechanical Engineering or related program (engineering, physical, or mathematical science) from an ABET or equivalent accredited institution.
- **General Records Exam (GRE)**
- **3 Letters of Recommendation**
- **Resume**
- **Statement of Intent**
- **Identify potential advisors(s) (Graduate Committee Chair)**

**Q: Can I apply to the graduate program even though I don't have an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering?**

A: If you have a degree in a related program, you may still apply. Students with a degree in a related discipline may be provisionally admitted to the program. Provisionally admitted students will need to take prerequisite undergraduate courses. These courses are determined after being admitted to the program and are determined with the student's graduate committee chair (advisor).

**Q: I want to start my graduate program earlier than the semester I was admitted. Is this possible?**

A: Yes, but you must meet the following criteria:

- Be admitted for fall semester. You can start the prior spring or summer term. If you are admitted for winter semester, you are not eligible to start earlier.
- You must receive departmental approval to start the spring or summer term prior to the fall semester to which you are admitted. Please contact the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program Manager.



## **Q: Do I need to submit official transcripts?**

A: Graduate Studies must receive official transcripts from all institutions attended. Unofficial transcripts may be submitted with the application and used for departmental evaluation; however, you must submit official transcripts if you are accepted into the program and before attending graduate school.

**Q: I attended BYU-Provo as an undergraduate. Do I need to submit official transcripts?**

A: No, you do not need to submit official transcripts.

## **Q: How do I submit an Ecclesiastical Endorsement?**

A: Submit your Ecclesiastical Endorsement online at the [CES website](#). Click on “Student” and then “Applicant” to start the endorsement process.

**Q: I'm currently an undergraduate at BYU-Provo and have an ecclesiastical endorsement. Do I need another one?**

A: Yes, all applicants must submit an Ecclesiastical Endorsement with their application. You currently have a "Continuing Student" endorsement, but you need an "Applicant" endorsement which requires that you meet with both a bishop and stake president.

**Q: I don't have a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. What prerequisite courses do I need to take?**

A: If you did not receive a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering, you may be provisionally admitted to the program. Provisionally admitted students may need to take some prerequisite undergraduate courses. These courses are determined after being admitted to the program and are determined with your graduate committee chair (advisor).

**Q: What if my BS degree was from a non-ABET or non-equivalent accredited institution, may I still apply?**

A: Yes, you may still apply and may be provisionally admitted. Provisionally admitted students may need to take some prerequisite undergraduate courses. These courses are determined after being admitted to the program and are determined with your graduate committee chair (advisor).

**Q: What is the average GPA of students admitted to the program?**

A: In order for an application to be considered, you must have at least a 3.0 GPA. GPA statistics for students admitted to the Mechanical Engineering MS and PhD programs can be found in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

**Q: Do I need to take the subject specific GRE exam?**

A: No, you do not need to take the subject specific exam.



**Q: When should I sit for the GRE?**

A: You should sit for the GRE at least 6 weeks prior to the application deadline.

**Q: What are the GRE statistics for students admitted to the Mechanical Engineering MS and PhD programs?**

A: GRE statistics for students admitted to the Mechanical Engineering MS and PhD programs can be found in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

**Q: Who should provide my letters of recommendation?**

A: You should obtain letters of recommendation from people who are familiar with your academic abilities and potential to succeed in completing a MS or PhD program.

**Q: What should I include on my resume?**

A: You should provide a summary of your skills, abilities, and accomplishments.

## Q: What is the purpose of the Statement of Intent?

A: The Statement of Intent serves 3 major purposes:

1. To facilitate admission decisions.
2. To guide the applicant to potential graduate committee chairs (advisors).
3. When applicable, to identify applicants applying for the Integrated MS/MBA program.

**Q: Who is the primary audience of the Statement of Intent?**

A: The admissions committee is the primary audience.

## **Q: What should I include in my Statement of Intent?**

A: For more information regarding what should be included on your Statement of Intent, see the [“How to Write a Good Statement of Intent”](#).

## **Q: What is a Graduate Committee Chair (advisor)?**

**A:** The Graduate Committee Chair supervises research and the completion of a thesis (MS students) or dissertation (PhD students). In addition, he/she assists in developing the student's Program of Study.



**Q: How do I identify a potential graduate committee chair (advisor)?**

A: You can [preview the profiles of faculty members](#) and research areas being conducted within the department. You are also encouraged to contact potential chairs (advisors) to discuss research interests.

**Q: Does my committee chair (advisor) have to be from the Department of Mechanical Engineering?**

**A:** Yes, the graduate committee chair will be selected from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The exception is for students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies program.

## **Q: What is Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies?**

A: Recognizing that there are exciting and emerging areas of research that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries, ME Department Faculty are interested in providing a pathway for interdisciplinary graduate study that may not coincide with the specific primary research interests of existing ME department faculty members, but yet still falls within the discipline of mechanical engineering.

## **Q: How do I apply for interdisciplinary graduate studies?**

A: In addition to your application, you will need to submit [ADV Form 1](#). This form should be turned in to the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program Manager when you submit your application. The [Checklist for Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies](#) will help you to fill out this form.

## **Q: What is the MS/MBA program?**

A: The Mechanical Engineering Department and the Marriott School of Management offer an integrated program leading to both a MS degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. The program provides advanced training in Mechanical Engineering along with management skills of the MBA program. The degrees are received simultaneously and are conferred separately by the two departments.

## **Q: How do I apply for the MS/MBA program?**

A: You must apply to both the mechanical engineering MS program and the MBA program, meeting the requirements of each department. In addition, you must specify your intention to participate in the Integrated program in both statements of intent.

**Q: How long does it take to complete the MS/MBA program?**

A: On average it takes students 3-4 years to complete the MS/MBA program. If you want to finish in 3 years, students find it beneficial to start the MS program during spring term prior to the fall semester in which you were admitted.

**Q: What is the Integrated BS/MS program?**

A: The Integrated BS/MS program allows you to earn your BS and MS degree concurrently.



**Q: Am I a good candidate for the Integrated BS/MS program?**

A: You are a good candidate for the Integrated BS/MS program if during your senior year you can take 10 or more credits that will not count toward your undergraduate degree. If this applies to you, you will need to apply for the MS program prior to your senior year.

## Q: How can I apply for Integrated BS/MS program?

A: In order to be eligible for the Integrated BS/MS program you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be admitted as a graduate student at least 2 semesters prior to graduation.
2. Complete "[Notification of Integrated or Integrated Program Status: GS Form 5.](#)"
3. Pay at least 2 semesters (or 1 full-time and 2 full-time terms) of full-time graduate student tuition.
4. Earn no fewer than 150 semester hours for both degrees (120 for the BS degree; 30 for the MS degree).
5. Receive both the BS and the MS degrees simultaneously (the same semester).
6. Once admitted, students will not be allowed to back date their graduate admission to a prior semester/term.
7. Graduate Studies cannot consider a prior semester's undergraduate tuition as partial payment for graduate tuition.

**Q: I'm an international applicant, what do I need to include in my application?**

**A:** In addition to the University and Department application items mentioned above, an international applicant must also include the following in their application:

- TOEFL, IELTS, or E3PT Exam scores
- IERF evaluation

**Q: What is the minimum TOEFL, IELTS or E3PT score that I need?**

A: University minimum scores are required. Scores for the entrance exams must be sent directly to Brigham Young University. Applicants should take the TOEFL, IELTS, or E3PT exam at least 6 weeks prior to the application deadline.

**Q: Do I need to take the TOEFL, IELTS, or E3PT if I received a degree from a U.S. institution?**

A: You must take the TOEFL, IELTS, or E3PT exams if English is not your native language and **you have not earned** a 4 year bachelor's degree, or higher, from an educational institution in the United States within 2 years of graduate studies enrollment.

## Q: Do I need to take the TOEFL, IELTS, or E3PT if my native language is English?

A: You are required to submit official TOEFL, IELTS, or E3PT scores in order to be considered for admission **if you are not** from one of the following exempt countries:

- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Republic of Ireland
- New Zealand
- Australia

## **Q: What is the IERF Evaluation?**

A: International Evaluation Research Foundation (IERF) evaluates all post-secondary work and/or degrees awarded outside the United States. The IERF report includes a U.S. degree equivalency (if applicable), coursework evaluation, and official grade point average (GPA). You must request an official credential evaluation report through IERF to BYU Graduate Studies. Reports are reviewed prior to the applicant being officially admitted to the university. For more information about IERF visit the [Graduate Studies website](#).

## **Q: How do I obtain an IERF Evaluation?**

A: To obtain an IERF evaluation, visit the [International Evaluation Research Foundation \(IERF\)](#) website.