



## Applying to the Combined BS/MS Program

### How It Works

The Combined BS/MS Program provides an opportunity for top Texas Tech Mechanical Engineering undergraduate students to obtain BS and MS degrees in approximately five years. Students in the BS/MS program follow the undergraduate curriculum for the first three years, and in the final undergraduate year they combine the undergraduate and graduate studies, typically taking two graduate courses in lieu of undergraduate electives. One additional year of study including summer sessions, or three long semesters lead to the combined BS and MS degrees.

The following rules apply to the combined BS and MS programs:

- ***BS and MS program requirements:*** Students must satisfy requirements of both BS and MS programs, including the number of credit hours and course distribution, as specified by the respective program rules.
- ***Dual course Counting:*** Students may apply up to 6 credit hours of graduate-level lecture courses to their BS degree. The total number of graduate-level credit hours, excluding the dual counted courses applied toward the BS degree, must be at least 30 credit hours to meet the MS program requirements.
  - The dual counted graduate-level lecture courses are used to fulfill the ME undergraduate elective course requirements. Undergraduate Advisor's approval is required.

According to the above course counting rule, students who pursue the coursework and report MS-program options (i.e., the options that require 36 credit hours of graduate-level coursework) may apply up to 6 credit hours of graduate lecture courses to their BS degree requirements, without any additional restrictions.

Students who pursue the research-intensive MS thesis option (i.e., the option that require a minimum of 30 credit hours of classroom instruction and research) may use graduate-level lecture courses to fulfill their BS degree requirements only if an equivalent number of additional graduate-level courses is taken. The additional courses will typically be ME 6000 - Master's Thesis or ME 7000 - Research. Thus, for thesis option students, dual course counting does not reduce the total number of combined undergraduate and graduate credit hours, but allows for more coursework flexibility.

### Application and Admission

Students apply to the ME department for admission to the combined BS/MS program in the semester they will obtain their 90th semester credit hour. (i.e., when taking ME 3365 – Introduction to Design). Applicants will submit a Combined BS/MS Program Application to Gwen Clymo at [Gwen.Clymo@ttu.edu](mailto:Gwen.Clymo@ttu.edu) or in ME Office 104.

Admission to the program is based on the applicant's cumulative (non-grade replaced) grade point average, grades in fundamental Mechanical Engineering courses, GRE scores, and faculty recommendations. Students having a grade point average below 3.2 may be admitted on a case by case basis, depending on GRE scores and faculty recommendations.

In addition to the completed application form, the Mechanical Engineering Department requires the following application materials, depending on the cumulative (non-grade replaced) grade point average of the applicant:

- **GPA above 3.5:**
  - Three names of recommenders
  - The GRE exam requirement is waived for students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher but the Graduate Committee may request the applicant to take the GRE Exam if the submitted application materials are not sufficient for making admissions decisions.
- **GPA below 3.5 but above 3.2:**
  - GRE Exam
  - One letter of recommendation
  - Two additional names of recommenders
- **GPA below 3.2:**
  - GRE Exam
  - Three letters of recommendation

### **Requirements for References**

Applicant must be in communication with their references before the applicant lists them as a reference. References can be College of Engineering faculty members or instructors, not Graduate Part Time Instructor's. If letters of recommendation are required to complete the students' application, the recommenders must submit their letters via email to Gwen Clymo @ [Gwen.Clymo@ttu.edu](mailto:Gwen.Clymo@ttu.edu).

### **Graduate School**

If the applicant has been recommended by the Department for acceptance to the Combined BS/MS program, the applicant will receive a departmental offer letter. The letter will give the applicant details of when to apply to Graduate School, usually the following long semester, and other departmental requirements. If the applicant would like to apply for a summer term, he/she will need to get the departments approval. The applicant must be aware that the offer is contingent upon the applicant being formally admitted by Graduate School.

### **Graduate Admission Office:**

806-742-2787  
 Box 41030  
 Lubbock, TX 79409-1030,  
[www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool)