

MIE Graduate Student FAQ

Application Requirements:

1. What is required for an application to a program in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering at UMass Amherst?
 - **Bachelor's degree:** Prior to their anticipated start date, applicants must complete a bachelor's degree from a U.S. college or university accredited by a [regional accrediting association](#); or complete an international degree that is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree from a college or university recognized and approved by the Ministry of Education or commission responsible for higher education in the country where the degree is earned. If you obtained your degree from a university outside the United States, please consult the [International Applicants page](#) for more information.
 - **Note:** An unofficial transcript is acceptable for your application, but if you are admitted, you will need to send/have an official transcript sent to Graduate Admissions.
 - **English Proficiency:** Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency. For more details consult the [International Applicants page](#).
 - **Personal Statement:** You may submit this either by entering it directly into your online application or by uploading the PDF files and attaching them to your application. There is no maximum or minimum word limit. Please provide a statement that is long enough to answer the prompt.
 - **Letters of Recommendation:** Two letters of recommendation are required. After submission of the electronic application, Graduate Admissions sends an email to each reference with instructions on how to electronically deliver the recommendation to the Graduate School. All recommendations are nonconfidential unless the applicant waives their right of access.
 - **GPA:** UMass requires a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 to be eligible to apply to one of our graduate programs. As a department, we typically use a GPA of 3.0 as baseline, but would consider an application below 3.0 and above 2.75.
 - **Resume/CV**
2. Is the GRE required for the application?
 - The GRE exam is not required for any MIE graduate program application.

3. Can I apply to a PhD program with a bachelor's degree only?
 - A master's degree is not required to apply to a PhD program. Prospective students with a bachelor's degree in the same major as the PhD or other relevant fields (other engineering disciplines, math, and science) can apply directly to a PhD program through an MS/PhD path. Students would first complete the master's degree requirements before continuing as a PhD.
4. I am applying as a PhD or master's thesis candidate. Am I automatically assigned a faculty advisor if I am accepted into the program, or do I need to find a faculty advisor before applying?
 - This process is separate from the application itself. You do not need a supervisor before applying, but you would eventually need a supervisor before starting the program to be funded. You can start the program without an advisor but would not receive funding until securing an advisor. As you are in the process of applying, you can reach out to our faculty members to see if they are able to mentor new students beginning in the semester you are applying to start. You are welcome to contact instructors about potential research after you submit your application. Our faculty and research information may be found here: [MIE Faculty Research](#)
5. Are there funding opportunities or scholarships for coursework-only master's students?

Students enrolled in coursework only graduate programs are typically not provided funding support. TA positions in the MIE department are limited in number, and are generally reserved for PhD students. RA positions are decided by individual faculty based on their lab needs, and if you find on-going research that is a good match for your interests and expertise, you are welcome to reach out to see if they have openings.
6. What are the application deadlines?
 - Our programs have the following fall application deadlines:
 - MS or PhD in Industrial Engineering & Operations Research: **January 15th**
 - MS in Manufacturing Engineering: **January 15th**
 - MS or PhD in Mechanical Engineering: **January 15th**
 - MS in Engineering Management (on-campus): **March 15th**
 - MS in Engineering Management (online): **July 15th**
 - We only offer Spring term entry for the MS in Engineering Management program. All materials must be submitted by the deadline to be considered for the following spring.
 - MSEM program has the following spring application deadlines:
 - MS in Engineering Management (on-campus): **October 1st**
 - MS in Engineering Management (online): **November 30th**
7. When will I receive a decision?
 - Please note admission is only rolling for the MSEM programs. All other programs will not review applications until after the deadline has passed. Applicants will receive a decision by late February/early March.
8. Are there application fee waivers?
 - Active duty or veteran military personnel are eligible for application fee waivers. Online MSEM applicants applying for the Fall 2026 intake are also eligible for the application fee waiver. Otherwise, there are no application fee waivers.

9. I am having issues uploading application items or my references cannot upload their letters of recommendation. What do I do?
 - If you have any issues with your application materials, please direct questions to Graduate Admissions at gradadm@grad.umass.edu.

After you are admitted to a program:

1. Do I need to officially accept an offer to join a program?
 - Yes, you will need to officially click “accept” in your application portal to confirm you will matriculate at UMass and to activate your account. You will receive email instructions from our IT team with setting up your UMass SPIRE account. They will provide you with a new UMass email account as well as a SPIRE net ID. Once your UMass email account is activated, please only use this email address when messaging UMass personnel. SPIRE is the database you will use to enroll in courses.
2. How much does the program cost?
 - Information on the cost of courses may be found here: [UMass Graduate Tuition](#) and here: [UMass Graduate Cost Info](#)
 - Any questions regarding bill pay should be directed to the Bursar’s Office: [UMass Bursar's Office](#)
3. Am I eligible for financial aid?
 - Information on financial aid may be found here: [Graduate Financial Aid](#)
4. Where can I find housing?
 - The department does not assist in housing. The information regarding family housing can be found [here](#). Off-campus housing resources may be found here: [Off Campus Housing](#)
5. I am an international student. How do I obtain my I-20/visa?
 - All visa related items are handled by the International Programs Office (IPO). The MIE department is not involved in this step, so please refer all questions to IPO ([UMass IPO](#)). You should receive instructions on obtaining the I-20 after accepting your offer to join a graduate program in SPIRE.
6. Can I defer my semester start term?
 - Yes. Admitted students may email Nauman Tazeem (ntazeem@umass.edu) to request a deferral for either one semester or one year. Graduate students are allowed two deferrals.
7. Are there on-campus jobs for students who do not receive funding?
 - Yes, student can use the following link for other jobs outside MIE: [UMass Student Employment](#)

Course Registration:

1. When can I enroll in courses?
 - New graduate students can register for courses beginning in early June. The Graduate School will notify your UMass email address when registration opens.
 - After your first semester, you will be able to register in subsequent semesters on the first day of registration. This is typically early November before spring registration and early April before fall registration.
2. How do I enroll in courses?
 - This link provides instructions for how to register for in-person courses in SPIRE: [SPIRE Enrollment Instructions](#)
 - If you cannot enroll in an in-person MIE course because of a pre-requisite issue, please email Nauman Tazeem (ntazeem@umass.edu) for assistance.
 - If you cannot enroll in a course outside of MIE, please email the course instructor to see if you can join the course and for instructions on how to request enrollment.
 - Instructions for enrolling in University + (formerly UWW) online courses may be found here: [Online Enrollment Instructions](#)
3. Do I have to take summer and/or winter courses?
 - No, returning graduate students are not required to take summer or winter courses. You are required to enroll in something every fall and spring to retain active student status, however. The only time a student is required to enroll in something in the summer or winter is if your first term at UMass is during the winter or summer intersession.
 - You have the option to enroll in credits during the summer or winter, but it is not a requirement. If you were to take courses, all summer and winter courses are held online only, and you would need to enroll via University +.
4. Who is my advisor?
 - Accelerated Master's (4+1): you do not have an assigned faculty advisor. Accelerated master's students can send general questions to Academic Advisor Kevin Romani (kromani@umass.edu).
 - MS coursework only: you do not have an assigned faculty advisor. All coursework only master's students can send general questions to the Graduate Academic Advisor Nauman Tazeem (ntazeem@umass.edu).
 - PhD and MS thesis: your faculty advisor is the instructor who supervises your research. You should meet with this faculty member to discuss all academic items, including course selection.

Other:

- If you have a question that was not addressed above and is regarding the Accelerated Master's (4+1) program, then please contact Kevin Romani at kromani@umass.edu.
- For all other inquiries, please contact Nauman Tazeem at ntazeem@umass.edu.
- If the specific question is not addressed but you know the correct office (i.e. Bursar's Office for bill pay or IPO for visa), please direct your question to that office.