

Accelerated Master's Degree Program

An accelerated Master of Science (BS/MS) degree program is available for qualified seniors in the engineering BS programs at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. The accelerated master's degree program allows BS engineering students to take up to nine (9) graduate-level credits to simultaneously meet both undergraduate and graduate degree program requirements

Eligibility

To be eligible for the accelerated master's degree program in Civil Engineering, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Be currently enrolled in BS engineering program at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.
2. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
3. Be within two semesters of graduation or within 40 credits of satisfying all graduation requirements for a BS engineering degree.

Application Process

The accelerated MSCE degree program may begin when the student is within the last 40 credits of meeting BS graduation requirements. Juniors and seniors interested in accelerated graduate studies should visit with a faculty member in their area of interest to discuss research and course work opportunities. Applications for graduate school and the accelerated program can be obtained online:

- [Graduate application](#)

Applicants should note their intent for the accelerated program in their statement of purpose that accompanies the application.

Admission

Admission criteria and the departmental review process are the same as those used for all graduate students. The CEE graduate committee will review the application and submit the recommendation to the CEE department graduate coordinator.

The department graduate coordinator reviews the applications and forwards the final recommendation to the Graduate Education Office.

Unless an applicant already has another bachelor's degree, the only admission category that is allowed is "special graduate student status." This classification allows students to take up to nine hours of graduate course work and can be changed to full admission upon the completion of the BS degree.

Beginning the Program

Students accepted to the accelerated program should select a major professor in their area of interest to help them develop a plan for completing the undergraduate requirements and guide their graduate course selection. This plan is an unofficial document that is in addition to the formal program requirements agreement (PRA) that specifies only courses taken toward the graduate degree.

Courses and Credits

A student may take up to three 500/600-level courses during the senior year that may be used to simultaneously meet BSCE and MSCE degree requirements. Students enrolled in the accelerated MSCE program may choose a thesis or non-thesis option. The thesis option requires a minimum of 30 credits and the non-thesis option requires a minimum of 33 credits.

All credits taken by the student will only appear on the graduate transcript until the student has completed the courses required in the undergraduate program. When completing the undergraduate degree audit, the student's advisor will note graduate courses that will be used for undergraduate credit.

Program Requirements Agreement (PRA)

Thesis Option - The major professor/advisor is primarily responsible for supervision of the graduate student's research and thesis/dissertation preparation, as well as ensuring that academic standards and requirements are met and satisfied. The major professor serves as chairperson of the Graduate Advisory Committee and assists the student in selection of other members of the committee. The student's advisory committee will assist the student in formulating required course work leading to the advanced degree.

Non-Thesis Option – The graduate program coordinator is primarily responsible for ensuring that academic standards and requirements are met and satisfied.

A copy of the Program Requirements Agreement form and advisory committee assignments must be filed with the student, the student's department/program, and the graduate office no later than the mid-term of the semester after which 9 credit hours at the graduate level have been completed. For the accelerated master's student this may be the first semester of study after completion of the BSCE requirements.

Example Program of Study

An example program of study for a student completing a BSCE degree while pursuing the accelerated MSCE degree is shown below, assuming the student is able to take 9 hours of graduate credit as an undergraduate student. Actual program of study may vary based on student interests and availability of courses.

Admission as “Special Graduate Student”

Typical Senior Year

Fall Semester

IENG 302	Engineering Economics	3
CEE 474	Construction Management	3
CEE	Dept Approved Electives	3 (500/600 level courses)
CEE	Dept Approved Electives	3
CEE 464	CE Capstone Design I	1
	Science Elective	3

Spring Semester

CEE 463	Profession	2
CEE 465	CE Capstone Design II	2
CEE	Dept Approved Electives	6 (500/600 level courses)
Humanities or Social Sciences	Elective	3
	Science Elective	3

Normal BS requirements completed; change status to “Full Admission Graduate Student”

Thesis

Summer Semester

Research, 2 credits

Fall Semester

Grad class, 1 credit (CEE 500)
Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 3 credits
Research, 2 credits

Spring Semester

Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 2 credits
Research, 2 credits (complete thesis)

Non-Thesis

Summer Semester

Grad class, 3 credits

Fall Semester

Grad class, 3 credit
Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 3 credits

Spring Semester

Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 3 credits
Grad class, 3 credits

MS requirements completed