AGRICULTURAL & BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural & Biological Engineering

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overview of admissions & requirements: https://abe.illinois.edu/apply#graduate
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply

department website: https://abe.illinois.edu/
program website: https://abe.illinois.edu/graduate
department faculty: https://abe.illinois.edu/directory/faculty
college websites: https://grainger.illinois.edu/ and https://aces.illinois.edu/
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Opportunity exists for specializing in computational science and engineering via the Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/) optional graduate concentration.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the PhD program is limited to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional ability through outstanding performance in obtaining an MS degree and/or through a high degree of technical and professional accomplishment. Candidates must also satisfy entrance requirements for the MS degree program.

All applicants whose native language is not English must submit a minimum TOEFL (http://www.toefl.org/) score of 88 (iBT), 230 (CBT) or 570 (PBT); or minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (http://www.ielts.org/) academic exam scores of 6.5 overall. Applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL if certain criteria (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) are met. For those taking the TOEFL or IELTS, full admission status (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) is granted for scores greater than 102 (TOEFL iBT), 253 (TOEFL CBT), 610 (TOEFL PBT), or 7.0 (IELTS). Limited status (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) is granted for lesser scores and requires enrollment in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses (http://linguistics.illinois.edu/students/esl/guidelines/) based on an ESL Placement Test (EPT) taken upon arrival to campus.

Financial Aid

Fellowships, supported by University, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, and The Grainger College of Engineering funds, are available on a competitive basis. A limited number of assistantships, providing both teaching and research experience, are often available on a half-time basis. Starting in Fall 2020, Grainger Engineering PhD students in their first five years of enrollment who meet the minimum eligibility requirements (https://grainger.illinois.edu/academic/phd-funding-guarantee/) are guaranteed a funded appointment for fall and spring that includes a full tuition waiver, a partial fee waiver, and a stipend.

All applicants, regardless of US citizenship, whose native language is not English and who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships must demonstrate spoken English language proficiency (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm) by achieving a minimum score of 24 on the speaking subsection of the TOEFL iBT or 8 on the speaking subsection of the IELTS. For students who are unable to take the iBT or IELTS, a minimum score of 4CP is required on the EPI test (http://cts.illinois.edu/test/epi-overview.html), offered on campus. All new teaching assistants are required to participate in the Graduate Academy for College Teaching (https://citl.illinois.edu/citl-101/teaching-learning/grad-academy-for-college-teaching/) conducted prior to the start of the semester.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Experience in teaching is considered a vital part of the graduate program and is required as part of the academic work of all PhD candidates in this program. For details of expectations, see the department’s Graduate Handbook (https://abe.illinois.edu/graduate/handbook/).

Department Research

Current research interests of the faculty include off-road equipment engineering (robotics and machinery automation, remote sensing and precision agriculture, machinery management systems, pesticide application technology, engines and biofuels); soil and water resources (hydrology, erosion and sediment transport, water management, wetlands, and water quality); bioenvironmental engineering (building environment and energy conservation, air quality, renewable energy, biomass to bioenergy conversion, structural analysis and facility design, building materials evaluation, environmental control and ergonomic design for plant, animal, and human housing systems and facilities); food and bioprocess engineering (engineering properties of foods, physical properties of biological products, grain drying, grain quality evaluation, dry-grind corn processing, wet and dry milling, modified bioprocesses for improved co-products, fuel and chemicals, fermentation, and transport phenomenon in biological materials); or electronic
and electrical systems (biosensors and controls, energy systems, machine vision, near-infrared spectroscopy applications, bionanotechnology, microfabricated devices, bioconjugation techniques, transcriptional control, modeling life support systems, and multiscale biological processes). For more details, visit the department’s research Web site. (https://abe.illinois.edu/research/areas/)

Other Graduate Programs in the Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering degrees:

- Agricultural & Biological Engineering, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/agricultural-biological-engineering-ms/)
- optional concentrations for the PhD:
  - Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)
  - Data Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/data-science-engineering/)
- Technical Systems Management, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/aces/technical-systems-management-ms/)
- Technical Systems Management, MS - Professional Science Master’s (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/aces/technical-systems-management-ms-professional-science-masters/)

The Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering offers a graduate degree program which is at the forefront of the application of engineering principles to solve problems of agricultural production, utilization, environmental control, and biological systems and to improve the quality of life. Students may concentrate study in one of the faculty research interest areas listed below. Supporting course work includes: mathematics; computer science; statistics; engineering mechanics; chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering; animal science; crop sciences; food science; and other appropriate fields.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 05/2022