MECHANICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

http://mechse.illinois.edu

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Major: Mechanical Engineering
Degrees Offered: M.Eng., M.S., Ph.D.

Major: Theoretical and Applied Mechanics
Degrees Offered: M.S., Ph.D.

Off-Campus Program: Mechanical Engineering
Degree offered: M.S.

Concentrations: Biomechanics, Computational Engineering (M.Eng.)

Graduate Degree Programs

Building upon the longstanding strengths of programs in mechanical engineering and in mechanics, the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering (MechSE) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is taking a bold, new approach to research and education that will enable it to address some of the most pressing problems facing the nation and the world. A new paradigm in research is being created in the department by integrating basic sciences such as biology, chemistry, applied mathematics, and applied physics with the traditional mechanical engineering and engineering mechanics disciplines of fluid mechanics-thermal science, solid mechanics-materials, and controls-dynamics. This integration is fostering new directions and discoveries in nanomechanics, nanomanufacturing, biomechanics and computational science and engineering.

The goal of all research in the department is to address critical societal problems in the areas of health, security-defense, energy-environment, manufacturing, and transportation. While the basic function of departmental research is generation of new knowledge, a growing number of projects are prompted by current needs of the State of Illinois and of the nation.

The department offers graduate programs leading to master’s and doctoral degrees with exciting research opportunities as described in the Faculty Research Interests section below. Opportunity also exists for specializing in:

1. computational science and engineering and
2. energy and sustainability engineering within the department’s graduate programs

via the Computational Science and Engineering (CSE) t (http://cse.illinois.edu/education-programs/graduate-program) transcriptable concentration and the Energy and Sustainability Engineering (EaSE) Option (http://ease.illinois.edu).

The M.Eng. is a professional master’s degree program for students whose primary intent is a career in industry or government. This degree differs from the Master of Science degree in that it is a terminal degree and not a pathway to a doctoral program.

Admission

An applicant for admission to the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering must:

1. be a graduate of an institution awarding a baccalaureate degree equivalent to that granted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;
2. be adequately prepared for advanced study as demonstrated by his or her previous program of study and scholastic record; and
3. be recommended for admission by the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering. A minimum grade point average of 3.25 (A = 4.00) for the last two years of undergraduate study is required and a 3.50 for any previous graduate work completed.

Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (http://www.ets.org) general test are required of all applicants. Based upon the previous preparation of the student, prerequisite courses may be specified by the advisor, but the credit may not be applied toward a degree.

All applicants whose native language is not English must submit a minimum TOEFL (http://www.toefl.org) score of 103 (iBT), 257 (CBT), or 613 (PBT); or minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (http://www.ielts.org) academic exam scores of 7.0 overall and 6.0 in all subsections. Applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL if certain criteria (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c) are met. Full admission status (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c) is granted for those meeting the minimum requirements and having taken the TOEFL or IELTS since the scores required for admission to MechSE are above the minimum scores demonstrating an acceptable level of English language proficiency.

Applicants to the M.Eng. must have a bachelor’s or master’s degree in engineering or a related field and will be considered for admission if they have a grade point average of at least 3.00 (A = 4.00) for the last two years of undergraduate study. Admission is possible for the spring term, but most admissions are for the fall term. The same requirements as listed above apply for all applicants whose native language is not English.

Students may apply to the Medical Scholars Program prior to beginning graduate school or while in the graduate program. Applicants to the Medical Scholars Program must meet the admissions standards for and be accepted into both Mechanical Science and Engineering and the College of Medicine. An application to the Medical Scholars Program will also serve as the application to the Mechanical Science and Engineering graduate programs. Further information on this program is available by contacting the Medical Scholars Program, (125 Medical Sciences Building, (217)-333-8146, msypo@illinois.edu).

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 06/2018
Students interested in the joint M.S.M.E.-M.B.A. degree program must apply initially to the M.B.A. program. In the term in which 60 hours of the M.B.A. course work prescribed for the joint-degree program is expected to be completed, they become eligible to petition to transfer to the M.S.M.E. degree program and with MechSE approval, may be admitted under the joint M.S.M.E.-M.B.A. program code.

Off-Campus Programs
The department offers the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering with both a thesis and a non-thesis option as described above.

Graduate Teaching Experience
Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in both the ME and TAM Ph.D. programs. The TAM Ph.D. requires that one semester of teaching assistantship be completed during the program.

Faculty Research Interests
A new paradigm in research is being created in the department by integrating basic sciences such as biology, chemistry, applied mathematics, and applied physics with the traditional mechanical engineering and engineering mechanics disciplines of fluid mechanics/thermal science, solid mechanics/materials and controls/dynamics. This integration is fostering new directions and discoveries in nanomechanics, nanomanufacturing, biomechanics and computational science and engineering.

The goal of all research in the department is to address critical societal problems in the areas of health, security/defense, energy/environment, manufacturing, and transportation. While the basic function of departmental research is generation of new knowledge, a growing number of projects are prompted by current needs of the state of Illinois and of the nation.

Faculty research interests include the following:

- Biomechanics – cell adhesion and motility, biological machines, bio-fluid mechanics, orthopedic biomechanics, musculoskeletal biomechanics, rehabilitation engineering, bone mechanics, composite biological nanomaterials, single-cell mechanics, synthetic biomaterials, failure mechanics of biomaterials, cytoskeletal biomechanics, mechanotransduction, bio-imaging of cytoskeletal structures and stress distribution in living cells, human motion analysis, human-machine systems.
- Controls/dynamics – autonomous networked vehicle control, nonlinear mechanical systems and phenomena, distributed-parameter systems, wavelet methods, stability theory, piecewise smooth dynamics, multi-body dynamics, control of multi-rate and asynchronous systems, equi-variant (symmetric) dynamical systems, control using methods of stochastic dynamics, experimental and analytical modal analysis, and control theory (non-linear, adaptive, robust, optimal, and distributed) with application to mechanical and electromechanical systems.
- Fluid mechanics/thermal sciences – bio-fluids, combustion, propulsion, energy systems and the environment, IC engines, gas turbines, laser diagnostics, energetic materials, combustion synthesis of materials, micro- and nano-scale heat transfer, kinetics of chemical processes, two-phase flow, liquid atomization and spray, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, micro-fluidics, computational fluid dynamics, compressible flow, fluid-structure interactions, meshless methods, detonation, deflagration-to-detonation transition, shock propagation, reacting flows, internal ballistics of rockets and guns, continual eddies, turbulent boundary layers, turbulent wakes, stratified turbulence, turbulence simulation, instability modes, vortex dynamics, coating flows, flow separation, three-dimensional foams, direct numerical simulation, large-eddy simulation, and particle-image velocimetry.

Centers, Programs, and Institutes
The following research centers and programs are integral to the MechSE graduate program:

- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Center (ACRC)
- Center for Intracellular Mechanics
- Center for Nanoscale Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical Manufacturing systems (Nano-CEMMS)
- Continuous Casting Consortium (CCC)
- Cooperative Networked Control of Dynamical Peer-to-Peer Vehicle Systems
- Fracture Control Program
- Manufacturing Research Center
- Midwest Structural Sciences Center
- The Center for Advanced Automotive Bio-Fuel Combustion Engines
- The Center for Process Simulation and Design
- The Center of Advanced Materials for Purification of Water with Systems (The WaterCAMPWS)
- The Global Enterprise for Micro-Mechanics and Molecular Medicine (GEM4)
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