Graduate Student Handbook
Department of Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME)
Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering (MEngME)

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Introduction

Welcome to the department of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at Boise State University. We are proud to offer two graduate degrees at the masters level. The Masters of Science (MS) degree is a traditional thesis-based degree which culminates in the development and presentation of an independent and novel research project. The Masters of Engineering (MENGR) degree does not require a thesis and culminates in a comprehensive examination. This document is intended to inform the student on the processes and procedures required for the attainment of a graduate degree from our department.

Disclaimer: The Boise State University Graduate Catalog

This document (the Graduate Student Handbook) is intended to serve as a handy and comprehensive resource for students in the Mechanical Engineering graduate programs. While every effort is made to ensure the information contained in this manual is both accurate and timely, the official Graduate Student Catalog of Boise State University contains the definitive information about all programs at the university. In the case where information provided in our manual conflicts with the official catalog, the catalog will prevail. Students are encouraged to find the catalog on line and be familiar with the information it contains.
Admission Requirements
In order to maximize the probability of success in our graduate programs, we enforce certain requirements for incoming students. As described in the graduate catalog, the admission requirements are summarized below:

An applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree in mechanical engineering from an ABET-accredited program or a baccalaureate degree in a closely related science or engineering field. An applicant must satisfy the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate College (see Graduate Admission Regulations) as well as satisfying the following specific requirements set by the department.

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 computed for all undergraduate credits or a 3.0 GPA computed for the last 60 undergraduate credits.

2. A minimum GRE combined (verbal plus quantitative) score of 304 (i.e., 1100 in the old scoring system) with a minimum GRE quantitative score of 153 (i.e., 680 in the old scoring system) is required. Applicants holding a B.S. degree from the College of Engineering at Boise State University are not required to submit a GRE score.

Please note: Admission to the graduate programs is competitive and the achievement of minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

Application Process
The process of applying to graduate school begins with our online application portal:

http://graduatecollege.boisestate.edu/howtoapply/

The portal will guide you through the application process where you will be asked to provide access to your undergraduate transcripts and GRE scores. You will also be charged a non-refundable application fee at that time. In addition to the information required by the graduate college admission process, the Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering department requires:

- A “statement of purpose” that describes your education and professional background, career goals and motivation for pursuing graduate studies.
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals knowledgeable of your qualifications and suitability for graduate student. Reference letters from faculty with firsthand knowledge of your ability are preferred.
Admission Decision

Once all required information has been received, the graduate committee will consider your application and make a recommendation to the Dean of the graduate college. The committee may accept the application, provisionally accept, or reject the application outright. If the candidate is in the process of completing their undergraduate degree (or the graduate school does not yet have verification of the degree) and the program committee recommends acceptance, the graduate dean will “conditionally admit” the candidate pending verification of the completion of the undergraduate degree.

Provisional acceptance is a possible outcome for students who may not meet the full requirements of the program (in GPA or GRE scores) but provide compelling evidence of their suitability of motivation for the program.

Finally, provisional acceptance may be rendered for students who meet the minimum requirements on paper, but whose performance in key undergraduate courses give the committee cause for concern that the student may not be academically prepared for the rigors of graduate study.

In either of these two cases, the committee will set provisions based on adequate performance in specific courses in the first one or two semesters of graduate study.

Application Timeline and Deadlines

Our admission process is fairly flexible and we try to consider applications whenever they come in, students are strongly encouraged to follow the generally accepted timeline for graduate applications:

- February 1 for admission in the following Fall Semester
- July 1 for admission in the following Spring Semester

Once admitted, students can then apply for graduate assistantships with the department or individual faculty members. These are highly competitive and students who apply by the deadlines are at an advantage.
Degree Requirements

The Core
The faculty of the MBE department has determined that our graduate programs, and the students enrolled in them, are best served by requiring specific courses to serve as a core of the program. Of the 30-31 credits required for a Master’s degree, 9 of them (3 courses) are dedicated to meeting the core requirement. Since the core is designed to form the foundation for graduate studies, students are strongly advised to meet these core requirements in their first year of graduate study. These requirements are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

Continuum Mechanics (ME 510)
While all students entering the Master of Science or Master of Engineering programs will have had many undergraduate courses in mechanics, the study of continuum mechanics lays the theoretical and mathematical foundation for the general field of mechanics as viewed on the continuum whether it is solid or fluid mechanics. Regardless of your research interests, or current field of employment, this course will serve as an important building block for courses to follow.

Applied Mathematics Core (Math 527 or Math 536)
The most important characteristic that distinguishes undergraduate courses from graduate study is the level of mathematical rigor associated with the analysis. These courses are modeled after courses that can be found in graduate engineering curricula across the country and were developed in consultation with engineering faculty.

Computational Core
Computational methods are commonly adopted in a range of fields for the analysis of complex engineering systems. Whether data are generated through simulation or experimentation, engineers also need to process and manipulate them for problem solving and reasoning using mathematical and/or statistical methods. Therefore, our graduate program requires students to demonstrate proficiency in problem solving using computational methods and computer programming. Note that a simulation-intensive course where canned software is used as a black-box does not meet the computational emphasis course requirements. Several course options are available to our students to meet this requirement and students are encouraged to consult with their advisor to find the class most appropriate to their course of study.

Exceptions to the Core Requirements
On rare occasions, the graduate committee of the Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering department will approve exceptions to the core requirements when a strong case can be made to support the request. An example is if the student took the 400-level version of a computational class as an undergraduate (e.g. 470 or 471) and earned a B+ or better in this course. In such cases, the Computational Core requirement is waived and the student is free to choose another graduate course in its place.
**Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses**
The remainder of the courses used to meet the requirements should be chosen in consultation with the student’s major advisor and should be consistent with their educational goals. The Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses (6-15 credits) are to be chosen from the list of ME classes at the 500 level. Please note: some of our courses are cross-listed as 400/500 level. If a student took the 400 level version of the course as an undergraduate, they are not eligible to use the 500 level version of the same course to apply to this requirement. Finally, no more than 3 credits (TOTAL) of Independent Study (ME 596) or Directed Research (ME 696) can be applied to this requirement.

**Non-Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses:**
Students also have the option of taking up to 9 credits of non-ME graduate courses to fulfill graduation requirements. Of those, 6 credits may be at the undergraduate level (300 or 400 level, B or better required) with the approval of the student’s advisor.

**Thesis Credits Requirements (MS Degree)**
A minimum of 6 credits of thesis work (ME 593) are required for a MS degree, but it is common for students to have an excess of thesis credits. Students should consult with their major advisor before enrolling for thesis credits and determine the appropriate number for any given semester. Students must be enrolled in at least 1 credit of thesis in the semester in which they defend their thesis.

**Comprehensive Exam (MEng Degree)**
In their final semester of graduate work, students enrolled in the Masters of Engineering program must enroll in ME 690 Master’s Comprehensive Examination. As early as possible in the semester, these students should meet with their advisor (typically the graduate coordinator) and begin making plans for the Comprehensive Examination.
Masters of Science Degree Requirements, Catalog Statement

Students must complete at least 30 graduate credits distributed as shown in the degree requirements table. Prior to admission to candidacy, the student's thesis committee must be formed and the thesis proposal must be presented to the committee, the form of the proposal and presentation is left to the discretion of the thesis advisor. The thesis must constitute an original contribution to knowledge in mechanical engineering and must be successfully defended at a final oral examination. All work directly related to the thesis must be represented by at least 6 credits of ME 593.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number and Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics Core</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 527 Introduction to Applied Mathematics for Scientists and Engineers or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 536 Partial Differential Equations or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 537 Principles of Applied Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 510 Continuum Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following courses:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 565 Numerical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 571 Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 572 Computational Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 536 Computational Fluid Dynamics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 570 Finite Element Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 571 Parallel Scientific Computing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another course with a computational emphasis approved by the student's advisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses</td>
<td>6-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses with ME prefix to be selected with student input and approved by the supervisory committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses</td>
<td>0-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate courses in a related field. Masters students may take up to 6 credits of upper division (300 level and above) undergraduate courses. Advisor approval required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culminating Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 593 Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Rule on Transfer Credit  The normal transfer credit policies of the Graduate College hold except that up to 15 transfer credits earned in combination at the University of Idaho and Idaho State University may be applied to either degree program (M.S. ME or M.Engr. ME) with the approval of the supervisory committee.

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1 From the 2017-2018 Graduate Catalog
Masters of Engineering Degree Requirements, Catalog Statement

Students must complete at least 31 graduate credits distributed as shown in the degree requirements table. A maximum of 3 credits of ME 596 Independent Study may be applied to meet the degree requirements. The comprehensive examination cannot be attempted prior to the last semester of the program. If the comprehensive examination is failed on the first attempt, then the student may be permitted a second attempt. Failure on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number and Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics Core</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 527 Introduction to Applied Mathematics for Scientists and Engineers or</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 536 Partial Differential Equations or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 537 Principles of Applied Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 510 Continuum Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following courses:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 565 Numerical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 571 Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 572 Computational Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 536 Computational Fluid Dynamics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 570 Finite Element Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 571 Parallel Scientific Computing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another course with a computational emphasis approved by the student’s advisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses</td>
<td>12-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses with ME prefix to be selected with student input and approved by the supervisory committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Mechanical Engineering Graduate Courses</td>
<td>0-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate courses in a related field. Masters students may take up to 6 credits of upper division (300 level and above) undergraduate courses. Advisor approval required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culminating Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 690 Master’s Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Rule on Transfer Credit  The normal transfer credit policies of the Graduate College hold except that up to 15 transfer credits earned in combination at the University of Idaho and Idaho State University may be applied to either degree program (M.S. ME or M.Engr. ME) with the approval of the supervisory committee.

2 From the 2017-2018 Graduate Catalog
How to Obtain your MS or MENG Degree: Timeline

Upon admission to one of our masters programs, you should schedule an appointment with your advisor. If you have not already established a relationship with one of the graduate faculty (see appendix) in the department, you should schedule a meeting with the graduate coordinator. Unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the student, all Masters of Engineering candidates are advised by the graduate coordinator.

While there are many similarities between the requirements for the MS and MEng degree, there are significant differences when it comes to advising. For the MS degree, the thesis advisor plays an active role in selecting courses and, of course, guiding the research project. Students are encouraged to seek out a thesis advisor as soon as possible after being admitted to the program.

Masters of Science Program Timeline
The flow chart on the following page shows a 2 year course of study which is typical for MS students, however, everyone’s situation is different and some deviation is to be expected.
Masters of Science Flow Chart (Typical)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class work</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>Semester 4</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milestones</td>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>Find Advisor</td>
<td>Form Committee</td>
<td>Admission to Candidacy</td>
<td>Application for Admission to Candidacy</td>
<td>Graduate Defense Notification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms</td>
<td>Appointment of Supervisory Committee</td>
<td>Application for Admission to Candidacy</td>
<td>Graduate Defense Notification</td>
<td>Graduation Application (through My.BoiseState)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Outline and Propose Thesis</td>
<td>Present Proposal</td>
<td>Carry out Research</td>
<td>Present and Defend Thesis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Typical Masters of Science Program Timeline
Earn a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Boise State University!

To get started:

1. Complete an Application for Admission.
2. Submit documents as shown in the MBE Graduate Program Admission Checklist.

In your first year of study:

3. Identify your advisor.
4. Meet with your advisor and complete the Program Development form (optional.)
5. Complete the Appointment of Supervisory Committee form and obtain all signatures.
6. If applicable, meet any provisional acceptance requirements.

In your second year of study:

7. Finish required course work.
   - Review the Thesis Template provided by the Graduate College.
9. Complete Application for Admission to Candidacy.
   - The Application for Admission to Candidacy form is due no later than the semester prior to your anticipated graduation. The academic calendar specifies a specific submission deadline; however, the Graduate College strongly recommends that the form be submitted once you’ve earned approximately half (15 credits) of your degree requirements.
10. Apply for graduation online through my.boisestate no later than the date published in the academic calendar.
11. Work with your advisor to complete the Graduate Defense Notification form.

THESIS PREPARATION

In the semester before you intend to graduate:

- Review thesis process deadlines.

At least two weeks prior to your intended thesis defense:

- Work with your advisor to complete the Graduate Defense Notification form.
  → Please send an email to mbegradapps@boisestate.edu or come to the MBE Department office, ENGR 201, to schedule a room for your defense. Please set this up as early as possible as there are a limited number of rooms available.
- Print one copy of the Defense Committee Approval on standard white paper to bring to your defense. Deliver the signed version of this page to the Thesis and Dissertation Office after your defense.
- Print one copy of the Final Reading Approval form on standard white paper to give to your advisor at your defense. Your advisor will keep the form until after you have incorporated any changes the committee requested during your defense.

Anytime: Reach out to let us know how you are doing, ask for information, or get some help! Make an appointment with our Graduate Services Coordinator, send us an email, or stop by the department office located in the Engineering building, room 201.
Highlights of the process are:

- For a student just starting out, the most important item on the flow chart is to identify a major advisor. This is the person who will guide you through your course selection, your research and preparing your thesis. The next step is to form a committee. This process is led by your advisor and will probably occur once the thesis topic is set.

- If you’ve been in the program for a year or more and have not yet formed a committee, you should seek out your advisor and do so as soon as possible.

- Once the committee is formed, the student, in consultation with his or her major advisor should prepare a thesis research proposal which will be presented to the supervisory committee. The form of that presentation is at the discretion of the advisor.

- After approximately 50% of the academic credits for the degree has been earned (15 credits), the student must formally apply for admission to candidacy. This process serves to approve the course plan and is the appropriate time to deal with any exceptions to the program requirements through the academic adjustment process. The graduate coordinator will not approve the application for admission to candidacy until the major advisor has signaled that the student has presented his or her thesis research proposal to the supervisory committee.

- Students should expect to have the thesis completed for their advisor at least 4 weeks prior to a scheduled defense date. The committee may require more time, but they must have the draft at least 2 weeks prior to the defense.

**Masters of Engineering Program Timeline**

The Masters of Engineering program is not thesis-based so the process is simplified somewhat. There is no supervisory committee (the department graduate committee fulfills that role) and a comprehensive exam is administered during the final semester. Figure 2 shows the timeline for the Masters of Engineering degree program.
Figure 2: Typical Masters of Engineering Program Timeline
Earn a Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from Boise State University

To get started:

12. **Apply for admission** to the Boise State Graduate College.
13. Submit all required documents. The Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering Department requires the following:
   - Statement of purpose
   - Three (3) letters of recommendation
   - GRE scores (this requirement is waived for graduates of the Boise State University College of Engineering)
   - Resume or additional information (optional)

In your first year of study:

14. Meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator and complete the **Program Development form**. The Program Development process results in an outline of courses required for your degree.
15. If applicable, meet any provisional acceptance requirements.

Halfway through your degree plan:

16. Complete the **Application for Admission to Candidacy** form.
   The Application for Admission to Candidacy form is due no later than the semester prior to your anticipated graduation. The academic calendar specifies a specific submission deadline; however, the Graduate College strongly recommends that the form be submitted once you’ve finished approximately half of your degree requirements.

In the semester prior to your final semester of the program:

17. Register for one (1) credit of MBE 690 (Master’s Comprehensive Examination) for the following semester. (The Comprehensive Exam is not offered in summer.)
18. Make an appointment to meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator to prepare for your Comprehensive Examination.

In the final semester of the program:

19. Early in the semester, meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator and select the three (3) courses which provide the basis for your comprehensive exam. The date for the comprehensive exam will be set by the Graduate Program Coordinator.
20. Apply for graduation online through My.BoiseState no later than the date published in the academic calendar.
21. Take and pass the Comprehensive Exam.
   A passing grade is achieved when each problem in the exam is graded at 70% or higher. A passing grade on each of the three sections is required to constitute a pass of the comprehensive exam. Students will be granted one additional attempt at the examination if they do not achieve a passing grade on the first attempt.

Anytime: Reach out to let us know how you are doing, ask for information, or get some help! Make an appointment with our Graduate Services Coordinator, send us an email, or stop by the department office located in the Engineering building, room 201.
Comprehensive Exam for the Masters of Engineering Program

The graduate program coordinator is responsible for administering the Comprehensive Exam. The exam is to be based on three of the courses taken by the candidate to fulfill the program requirements. Typically, the process follows the following steps.

At the beginning of the final semester of the program (during which the student registers for ME 690: Comprehensive Examination), the student meets with her/his graduate advisor (by default the graduate coordinator) and the 3 graduate courses which provide the basis for the exam are selected. The process can be informed by student preference, but the graduate committee reserves the right to select the courses. Disagreements on topic selection will be decided by the department graduate committee. In general, courses taken by the student that are cross-listed with undergraduate courses (i.e. 400/500 level courses) are not eligible to serve as topics for the comprehensive exam.

The date for the examination is set by the graduate coordinator. If several candidates are eligible for the exam, attempts will be made to schedule them at the same time. Typically, the exam is held toward the end of the semester, however if none of the three topics address courses that the student is currently taking, the exam could be scheduled any time in the semester.

The format of the exam is typically 3 hours, proctored and open-book. The graduate coordinator will solicit appropriate problems from the faculty who taught the topical courses (or appropriate surrogates if that faculty member is not available) and will administer and proctor the examination. The worked problems will be returned to the faculty for grading and the coordinator will assemble the results. A passing grade will be achieved if each problem in the exam is graded at a 70% or higher. A passing grade on each of the three sections is required to constitute a pass of the comprehensive exam. Students will be granted one additional attempt at the examination if they do not achieve a passing grade on the first attempt.

The graduate coordinator will inform the candidate of the outcome of the examination.
Funding your Graduate Program/ Graduate Assistantships

**Research Assistant** is a registered, full-time graduate student who contributes to research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, and is appointed by faculty members with available research funding.

**Teaching Assistant** is a registered, full-time graduate student who assists a faculty member to teach his or her course, and is appointed by the department chair.

By contract, a student holding an assistantship is responsible for conducting research or teaching in exchange for a stipend and tuition waiver. The term of assistantship varies, depending on funding availability. Students selected as a Research or Teaching Assistant should discuss expected responsibilities with their supervisors before accepting the position.

**Full time status for financial aid**

Students holding assistantships are required to register for at least five (5) credit hours to maintain the full-time graduate student status. Research or Teaching Assistants appointed during summer do not have to register summer courses but must register for a minimum of five (5) credit hours in the following fall semester. If Research or Teaching Assistants take summer courses, the tuition waiver is usually not applied during the summer term. A stipend may be given to a Teaching Assistant during summer even if the course in his/her charge is not offered. In such a case, the Teaching Assistant needs to work to assist the course in the following semester(s). Duties during summer include, but are not limited to: designing new experiments, repairing/installing lab equipment, collecting pilot data, writing lab instructions and manuals.

In order to receive paychecks and to be qualified for tuition waiver on time, prospective Research or Teaching Assistants should complete all paperwork at least one month before the appointment starts. Contact the MBE Administrative Assistant listed on the cover of this manual for detailed information of the paperwork.

**Health Insurance Requirements**

As you may well know, the health insurance industry, and the governmental requirements for health insurance coverage, have gone through many changes in the past few years. All students are required to carry a health care insurance policy that meets the standards set out by the Affordable Care Act. Students are advised to refer their questions to the student health service at Boise State.
Accelerated Master Program (for current Boise State ME Undergraduates)

Program Description
This accelerated program gives outstanding bachelor’s degree students in Mechanical Engineering a “fast-track” option to pursue their master’s degree (Master of Science, M.S. or Master of Engineering, M.Eng.). Students accepted into the accelerated program will register for three graduate courses (i.e., 500 level) during the last two semesters of their bachelor’s degree program, all of which will apply towards master’s degree requirements. Two of these graduate courses will count towards the three ME technical elective requirement to obtain a bachelor’s degree; one undergraduate technical elective will still be needed to satisfy the ME technical elective requirement. Students have to meet all of the requirements for both the bachelor’s degree and master’s degree. A clear benefit of this program is that two graduate courses (6 credits) will count towards both bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and this gives students the flexibility to receive their master’s degree with one more year of study beyond their bachelor’s degree. Students who wish to enroll in this program should submit a “fast-track” application the second semester of their junior year (there is no requirement on the number of years an applicant has been enrolled in undergraduate studies). Applicants are not required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Completion of at least 75 undergraduate credits applicable to the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering program at the time of application.
2. Overall GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application.
3. Completion of ENGR 320, ENGR 330, ENGR 350, ME 320, ME 380, and ME 352 with a GPA computed for these 6 courses of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale at the end of semester during which the application is made. Students may submit their application while taking ME320, ME380 and ME352.

Meeting these eligibility requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the accelerated master’s degree programs; the Dean of the Graduate College will make the final decision on whether an undergraduate student is accepted into this program. When “fast-track” students complete their undergraduate degree requirements, they will receive their bachelor’s degree and will then be classified as graduate students to continue their studies in the master’s program, at which time they are eligible to receive financial support with a Graduate Assistantship. To be considered for these competitive Graduate Assistantship positions, students should apply in the senior year of their bachelor’s degree program. “Fast-track” students are subject to all academic performance requirements of the Graduate College, including semester GPA, program GPA, and individual course grade requirements. These requirements include maintaining a 3.0 GPA in the graduate level courses taken during their bachelor’s degree. Undergraduate students at other colleges and universities are not eligible to participate in this program.
Application Materials

Undergraduate mechanical engineering students interested in pursuing an accelerated master's degree will apply during the 2nd semester of their junior year in order to start the 1st semester of their senior year. Interested students need to submit the following application materials:

1. **Application Form**: Verify eligibility and graduate courses to be taken during senior year (not to exceed nine credits).
2. **Statement of Purpose**: Articulate career goals and academic preparation, 1-2 pages (if MS applicant, must include discussion of possible thesis topics and name of prospective thesis advisor).
3. **Two Letters of Recommendation** (if MS applicant, one letter must be from prospective thesis advisor).
4. **Copy of Unofficial transcript**

**Application Process, Deadlines and Beyond**

Application materials are to be submitted to the ME Graduate Coordinator by the **second Friday of April or November**. At the end of the semester, after final grades have been posted in ME 320, ME 380, and ME 352, the graduate committee will evaluate applications. Applicants will then be notified by Friday of the second week in June whether or not they are being recommended for the “fast-track” program.

Recommended students need to immediately complete and submit a graduate application and application fee to Graduate Admission and Degree Services (GADS). The Graduate Dean will then make the final decision as to who is admitted into the program by the last Friday in June. Applicants will then receive a formal notification as to whether they have been admitted into the accelerated program or not.

During the second semester of their junior year, applicants will register for at least one 400-level ME program elective for the first semester of their senior year. If accepted into the accelerated program the student then submits a plan of study for their senior year to the ME graduate coordinator and then replaces the 400-level course(s) with a 500-level graduate course(s). A total of three graduate courses should be taken before completion of the undergraduate program. Depending on course loads, students are encouraged to take one graduate course during the first semester of their senior year and two graduate courses in the second semester of their senior year. Students will need to submit a “Permit for Seniors to Take Graduate Course” form for each course. Graduate fees will be charged for these graduate courses.

Upon receiving their bachelor’s degree, “fast-track” students will then proceed to fulfill requirements for their master’s degree. Master of Science students will have 15 credits of course work and six credits of thesis research and a formal thesis defense to complete the degree. Master of Engineering students will have 21 credits of course work and a one-credit comprehensive exam to complete the degree.
Appendix A: Graduate Courses in Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering

ME 510 CONTINUUM MECHANICS (3-0-3)(F/S). Development and analysis of fundamental relationships and constitutive equations for deformation, strain, and stress of materials occupying a continuous domain. Eulerian and Lagrangian methods are covered. Vector and tensor techniques developed. PREREQ: Graduate standing or PERM/INST.

ME 520 (KINES 520) ADVANCED BIOMECHANICS (3-0-3)(F). Mechanical principles and analytical methods used in traditional and contemporary biomechanics. Topics include functional anatomy, joint kinematics, inverse dynamics, mechanical properties of biological materials, and modeling of the musculoskeletal system. May be taken for KINES or ME credit, but not both. PREREQ: ENGR 220 or PERM/INST.

ME 522 ADVANCED THERMODYNAMICS (3-0-3)(F/S). Advanced topics selected from Statistical Thermodynamics, Thermodynamics of Chemically Reacting Gases, Thermodynamics Property Formulation for Computer Applications and others at the discretion of the professor. PREREQ: ME 420.

ME 525 (KINES 525) LABORATORY TECHNIQUES IN BIOMECHANICS (3-0-3)(S). An introduction to the analysis techniques used to study the mechanics of human motion. Topics include cinematography, videography, force transducers, electromyography and computer analysis techniques. May be taken for KINES credit or ME credit, but not both. PREREQ: KINES 520/ME 520 or PERM/INST.

ME 526 RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS (3-0-3)(F/S). A survey of renewable energy systems including solar, wind biomass, as compared to traditional electric power production and distribution. PREREQ: ENGR 240, ME 302, and CE 330 or ME 330.


ME 536 COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS (3-0-3)(F/S). Theory and numerical modeling in fluid dynamics. Finite difference, finite volume, and finite element techniques will be treated. The course will include projects and research applications in engineering and environmental flows. PREREQ: CE 330 or ME 330, and PERM/INST.

ME 537 CONDUCTION HEAT TRANSFER (3-0-3)(F/S). Steady and unsteady conduction of heat through solids, liquids, and gases. Analytical and numerical solution methods for ordinary and partial differential equations modeling heat transfer. PREREQ: Graduate standing or PERM/INST.

ME 538 CONVECTIVE HEAT TRANSFER (3-0-3)(F/S). Treatment of energy and linear momentum conservation equations; laminar and turbulent forced convective HT in internal and external flow fields; free convection. PREREQ: ME 320.

ME 539 RADIATION HEAT TRANSFER (3-0-3)(F/S). Radiation heat transfer due to emission and absorption between surfaces and within materials. Analytical and numerical solutions for steady and unsteady heat transfer due to radiation as a dominant process or in combination with convection and conduction. PREREQ: Graduate standing or PERM/INST.


ME 560 COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (3-0-3)(F/S). Computer programs used to develop 3-D CAD database for design, analysis, simulation, and manufacturing. Machine design to meet functional, performance, reliability and manufacturing requirements. Design projects reinforce concepts and methodologies. For students desiring higher level CAD sills prior to taking ME 480. PREREQ: ME 320.

3 From the 2017-2018 Graduate Catalog, pp 199-200
ME 561 (ECE 561) CONTROL SYSTEMS (3-0-3)(S). Time and frequency domain analysis and design of feedback systems using classical and state space methods. Observability, controllability, pole placement, and observers. May be taken for ECE or ME credit, but not both. PREREQ: ECE 360 or ME 360.

ME 566 DYNAMIC MODELING AND CONTROL OF ENGINEERING SYSTEMS (3-0-3)(F/S/SU). Multi-physics modeling of lumped parameter systems. Theoretical basis of system response including classical differential equations, state space methods, Laplace and frequency domain approaches. Closed loop stability and overview of SISO control system specification and design. Emphasis on computer simulation and model verification. PREREQ: Graduate standing or PERM/INST.

ME 570 FINITE ELEMENT METHODS (3-0-3)(F/S). Theoretical development of finite element methods, solution algorithm formulation, and problem solving in stress analysis, heat transfer, and fluid flow. PREREQ: ENGR 220, and CE 350 or ME 350, and PERM/INST.

ME 571 PARALLEL SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING (3-0-3)(F/S). Introduction to parallel scientific and technical computing on supercomputers and modern graphics processing units. Finite difference methods to solve partial differential equations governing heat conduction and wave propagation. Scientific visualization of simulation data. Performance optimization of scientific codes. Course projects involve parallel computer programming of prototype problems. PREREQ: CS 117, MATH 333, or PERM/INST.

ME 574 ADVANCED VIBRATIONS (3-0-3)(F/S). Theory and applications of vibrating continuous and discrete multi degree of freedom systems, modal analysis, acquisition and synthesis of data. Experimental and analytical characterization of the vibration response of linear and nonlinear systems, including Transfer and Frequency Response Functions, MIMO and SIMO, and mathematical modeling. PREREQ: ME 472 or PERM/INST.

ME 576 ADVANCED DYNAMICS (3-0-3)(F/S). Analytical modeling to predict the performance of linked, multi-body mechanical systems undergoing large displacements and rotations. Theoretical considerations in preparing models for computer simulations and interpreting results. Application of a state of the art computer package in creating realistic simulations. PREREQ: ME 380 or PERM/INST.

ME 577 (BIOI 577)(MSE 577) BIOMATERIALS (3-0-3)(F/S). Theory of biomaterials science. Medical and biological materials and their applications. Selection, properties, characterization, design and testing of materials used by or in living systems. May be taken for BIOL, ME, or MSE credit, but not from more than department. PREREQ: CHEM 112 or MSE 245.

ME 578 DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF MECHATRONIC SYSTEMS (3-0-3)(F/S). Design and analysis of engineering systems containing mechanical, electro-mechanical and embedded computer elements. The course provides an overview of basic electronics, digital logic, signal processing and electromechanical devices. Fundamentals of event-driven programming will also be covered. PREREQ: ENGR 240.

ME 582 OPTIMAL DESIGN (3-0-3)(F/S). Analytical and computer methods used to provide optimal design of products or processes. Formulation, specification, figures of merit, controllable variables, constraints and relationships among design variables. Single and multi-variable optimization algorithms using linear and nonlinear programming methods to design problems in structures, machine components, and energy systems. PREREQ: MATH 275, PHYS 211, and PHYS 211L.

ME 585 VEHICLE DESIGN (3-0-3)(F/S). Subsystem design for wheeled vehicles including bicycles, motorcycles, cars, trucks and ATVs. Static and dynamic analyses of traction and reaction forces during acceleration, braking and cornering. Suspension response analysis. Subsystem design including suspension, chassis, steering, transmission, brakes, and tires. PREREQ: ENGR 220, MSE 245, and CE 350 or ME 350.
Appendix B: Graduate Program Forms and Instructions

Up to date forms can be found at the Graduate college web site:

http://graduatecollege.boisestate.edu/forms/

When provided, we encourage students to use the electronic versions of the forms.

Links to Electronic Forms frequently used by graduate students:

- Forming a thesis committee: Appointment of Supervisory Committee
- Candidacy (Course plan approval): Application for Admission to Candidacy
- Transferring courses from another university: Request for Approval of Transfer Credits
- Exceptions to Degree Requirements: Request for Adjustment of Academic Requirements
- Independent Study: Application for Graduate Independent Study

When in doubt about the form needed, or the proper preparation and routing of a form, please contact the program graduate coordinator or administrative assistant listed on the cover of this manual.

Instructions for Filling out the Application for Admission to Candidacy

What is it: The Application for Admission to Candidacy is the process by which we certify that your coursework meets the degree requirements and that you are prepared to carry out thesis research. The process consists of filling out the on-line application form which must be approved by the graduate coordinator and the graduate college.

When to file: By the time you’ve signed up for your 3rd semester of coursework, you probably have a good idea of what graduate courses you’ll be taking to fulfill the requirements of our program. That would be a good time to file your Application for Admission to Candidacy. For Fall admits, that would be April of your 2nd semester. For Spring Admits, October of that year.

Here are some screen shots of the electronic version of the form to give you some guidance:
Choose the correct program. We currently have two: MS is thesis-based, MEngr is not.

An estimate of your graduation is all we ask for. It’s not a binding contract.

Your catalog year is based on the first semester you were enrolled. For example, if you started in Fall of 2017, your catalog is 2017/2018.

Your advisor will know if your thesis research will need IRB or other kind of compliance issues.
“YES” for MS, “NO” for MEng.

List courses in any order. Make sure you designate the 3 “Core Courses”. Thesis credits are “Culminating Activity”. Everything else is “Elective”.

For courses not yet taken, list IP for the grade. These courses can change if course offerings or your direction change.
**Appendix C: Graduate Faculty in Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Research Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clare Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clarefitzpatrick@boisestate.edu">clarefitzpatrick@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-4027</td>
<td>ENGR 206</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal Bioengineering, Finite Element Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Ferguson</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jferguson@boisestate.edu">jferguson@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-3679</td>
<td>ENGR 204</td>
<td>Inverse methods in heat transfer and mixed convective cooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gardner</td>
<td>Professor / Graduate Program Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jgardner@boisestate.edu">jgardner@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-5702</td>
<td>Yanke Room 905</td>
<td>Systems and controls applied to energy systems and the smart grid. Director of the CAES Energy Efficiency Research Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Guarino</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jguarino@boisestate.edu">jguarino@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-3042</td>
<td>ENGR 203</td>
<td>Vibrations, acoustics, modal analysis and biomedical engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevor J. Lujan</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TrevorLujan@boisestate.edu">TrevorLujan@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-2857</td>
<td>ENGR 235</td>
<td>Biomechanics applied to tissue. Director of the Northwest Tissue Mechanics Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Research Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahmood Mamivand</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mahoodmamivand@boisestate.edu">mahoodmamivand@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-4193</td>
<td>ENGR 232</td>
<td>Low-Temperature Co-Fired Ceramics (LTCC) used for sensors, micro-thrusters and other applications. Director of the Ceramic MEMS (C-MEMS) laboratory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Plumlee</td>
<td>Chair/Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dplumlee@boisestate.edu">dplumlee@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-3575</td>
<td>ENGR 201 A</td>
<td>Design Innovation, new product development and human factors engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aykut Satici</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>208-426-2388</td>
<td>ENGR 233</td>
<td>Design Innovation, new product development and human factors engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Tennyson</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stennyson@boisestate.edu">stennyson@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-4422</td>
<td>ENGR 232</td>
<td>Design Innovation, new product development and human factors engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunes Uzer</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gunesuzer@boisestate.edu">gunesuzer@boisestate.edu</a></td>
<td>208-426-4461</td>
<td>ENGR 205</td>
<td>Design Innovation, new product development and human factors engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Budwig</td>
<td>Adjunct Graduate Professor, Professor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Experimental and theoretical fluid dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Idaho in Boise</td>
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<td>Turbulence</td>
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<td>Optical, acoustic and thermal measurement techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Zhangxian ‘Dan’ Deng | • vibration control  
|                     | • sustainable power sources and wireless sensors  
| Assistant Professor | • adaptive structures and robust composites |
Appendix D: Research Labs

CAES Energy Efficiency Research Institute (CEERI)
Director: Dr. John Gardner
Website: https://ceeri.boisestate.edu/

CEERI is a state-wide collaboration focusing on the efficient and effective use of energy resources. CEERI researchers contribute in a broad range of fields including renewable energy, smart grid applications, commercial refrigeration systems and building energy management. In addition, CEERI is home to the Industrial Assessment Center, a partnership that trains engineering students to improve the efficiency of industrial processes.

C-MEMS Lab
Director: Dr. Donald Plummer
Website: http://coen.boisestate.edu/cmems/welcome/

The Ceramic Microelectrical Mechanical Systems (C-MEMS) lab uses Low Temperature Co-fired Ceramics (LTCC) to develop devices ceramic devices for novel applications. Dr. Donald Plummer supervises the laboratory activities that are conducted by undergraduate and graduate researchers at Boise State University. The C-MEMS laboratory personnel design, fabricate and test LTCC devices. A few of the lab projects include work in microfluidic channels, thermoelectric generators, plasma microthrusters and plasma medical devices.

Computational Biosciences Lab
Director: Dr. Clare Fitzpatrick
Website: http://coen.boisestate.edu/cbl

Research at the Computational Biosciences Laboratory (CBL) at Boise State University focuses on applying computational models to understand the mechanisms of disease, injury and degeneration, and designing targeted treatment options and surgical interventions to address clinical issues and athlete performance. We work in close collaboration with surgeons and experimentalists to gather data to develop and validate our models, and then use these models to predict how our body will behave during different activities, or how it may change as a result of injury or surgical intervention. The overall objective of this work is to improve quality of life and functional performance.
Computational Materials Engineering Lab
Director: Dr. Mahmood Marnivand
Check out the MBE research page for updates on Dr. Marnivand’s lab.

The ultimate goal of Dr. Marnivand’s research is to accelerate the process of materials design and discovery through developing multiscale multiphysics models. Specifically, Dr. Marnivand and his team are developing mesoscale models for materials phase transformation, nanoparticles growth, and materials performance in extreme environments.

Mechanical Adaptations Laboratory
Director: Dr. Guemes Uzer
Website: http://open.boisestate.edu/mae

Our research employs biology, physics and engineering to identify the function and regulation of musculoskeletal cells (bone, muscle, cartilage and fat) under mechanical challenges. In our laboratory we apply a variety of mechanical signals to cells which are designed to be comparable analogs for exercise such as mechanical stretching and low intensity vibrations as well as analogs for unloading and microgravity.

Northwest Tissue Mechanics Laboratory
Director: Dr. Trevor Luhan
Website: http://open.boisestate.edu/ntm

The central mission of the NTM laboratory is to improve the well-being of individuals and societies by addressing persistent problems in musculoskeletal health. A core focus of our laboratory is to investigate how soft tissue responds to forces during injury and repair, and to then translate this research into innovative medical solutions that are effective, practical and affordable. Our research utilizes experimental and computational methods, and we engage in interdisciplinary collaborations with biologists, engineers and clinicians.

Robot Control Lab
Director: Dr. Ayvaz Sabic

Dr. Sabic’s research aims to enable robots to efficiently and robustly perform desired manipulation and locomotion tasks by designing low-level feedback control and estimation algorithms. This avenue of research lies at the intersection of dynamical systems, robotics, controls, and applied mathematics. Tools from analysis, optimization, and differential geometry are integral to the theoretical development of his research, which are complemented with experimental evaluation to assess its practical utility. The resulting interdisciplinary nature of his research encourages collaboration with researchers with diverse expertise.