

Master of Science in Engineering – Electrical Engineering Admission to the Major

Applications are considered on an individual basis. Candidates can be admitted on a regular (full graduate standing) or provisional status. Qualified applicants who are not admitted on either status can take graduate courses as a non-degree seeking graduate student. Up to 15 UNLV credits taken as a non-degree seeking graduate student at UNLV can be applied towards an M.S.E. degree. Potentially, six graduate credits taken at another regionally accredited university [Graduate College Policy] may be transferred into the M.S.E. degree program at UNLV. At most, only 15 credits of a combination of non-UNLV course credits and ECE UNLV course credits taken as a non-seeking graduate student may be applied to the M.S.E. program. Courses with a grade less than B (3.0) cannot be applied to the M.S.E. program. Further, the courses must not have been or will be applied to different degree program. Note that informal course credits will not be transferred into a M.S.E. degree program. Informal courses such as Graduate Independent Study and seminar taken as a non-degree seeking student cannot be applied towards an M.S.E. degree. Non-degree seeking students can count Electrical & Computer Engineering Graduate Special Topics towards the program degree as long as they adhere to the conditions of the particular program option regarding informal course credits.

To be considered for admission to the M.S.E. program, an applicant must:

1. Have a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in electrical engineering, computer engineering or a closely related discipline.
 - a. Applicants who possess a bachelor's degree in a closely related discipline, such as physics or mathematics, may be admitted on conditional and/or provisional status. These students will be required to complete certain undergraduate and/or graduate courses before they can attain regular status. The graduate committee determines these courses on an individual basis.
 - b. Graduates with degrees in engineering technology ordinarily have an inadequate background to be admitted to the graduate program.
2. Have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 (A=4.00) for their bachelor's degree. Applicants who have an overall GPA below 3.00 must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores {scaled score and percentile score in quantitative, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing} to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. These applicants may be admitted subject to the discretion and possible further requirements of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Committee. Applicants who want to be considered for an assistantship, or who feel that their GRE scores will enhance their chances for admission, are strongly encouraged to submit GRE scores.

3. Submit GRE scaled and percentile scores in quantitative, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering if the applicant did not obtain his bachelor's degree from an ABET accredited institution, if the applicant is interested in a teaching assistantship, or if the applicant received a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering more than five years prior to the first day of the first semester of the degree program applied for. Interpretation of the scores is at the discretion of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Committee. (An applicant possessing a bachelor's degree from an ABET accredited institution within the past five years is not required to submit GRE scores.)
4. Submit a completed application prior to the department's admission deadline.
 - a. Completed online application.
 - b. Submit official transcripts of all college-level work to the Graduate College.
 - c. Submit an additional set of transcripts of all college-level work directly to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
 - d. Submit a one page written statement of purpose indicating the applicant's research interests, motivations, and objectives.
 - i. In the statement of purpose, the applicant must explicitly identify his/her areas of interest from the following list of areas offered at UNLV in the ECE Department: Communications, Computer Engineering, Control Systems, Electromagnetics and Optics, Electronics, Power Systems, Signal Processing, and Solid State Materials and Devices (which includes Nanotechnology).
 - ii. Applicants are required to account for all time beyond the Bachelor degree indicating how they have developed professionally.
 - iii. Applicants transferring from other graduate programs must justify why they are leaving that program to join our program.
 - iv. Applicants receiving grades less than B in a graduate course elsewhere may not be admitted to the graduate program without a well justified explanation. Poor performance in course work in the program that the student is transferring from may be a cause for denial of admission. It will be the graduate committee's discretion whether to allow or deny admission.
 - e. Submit three dated letters of recommendation concerning the applicant's potential for succeeding in the graduate program. If the applicant has attended a university or is currently enrolled in a program beyond the bachelor degree, then the letters of recommendation should be solicited from that university or program. If the applicant has been out of school for an extended period of time, then letters should be solicited from the professional community that can comment on the applicant's technical background and/or from the applicant's most recent academic institution. Letters of recommendation written beyond a six-month period prior to applying for admission to our graduate program will not be accepted. Strong letters of recommendation illustrate technical talent and professional accomplishments beyond the grade point average or course grade. The graduate committee is interested in the applicant's technical, conceptual, verbal, ethical, and social skills. The graduate committee is interested in the applicant's ability to perform research with evidence to substantiate claims made. Note that letters from professors that casually know the applicant will not help in the admission process.

- f. Application deadlines are February 1st for admission in the fall of the same year and October 1st for admission in the spring of the subsequent year.
5. Before international applicants can be considered for admission, the Graduate College requires that all international applicants take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and obtain a minimum score of 550 or 85 on the Michigan Test. Students whose first language is not English may be required to take and pass the English as a Second Language Placement Test upon arrival at UNLV. If necessary, they will be required to take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at UNLV.
6. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

The Integrated BS-MS Track program allows select UNLV undergraduates to pursue the Electrical Engineering M.S.E. degree at UNLV. The program provides an opportunity for those undergraduates who have taken either 9, 6, or 3 graduate-level electrical and computer engineering course credits applied toward their undergraduate electrical/computer engineering degrees, to complete the respectively corresponding M.S. in Engineering with a total of either 21, 24, or 27 as opposed to the 30 credits required for Thesis Track. Students admitted to the Integrated BS-MS Track program are required to write a thesis.

To be considered for admission to the Integrated BS-MS Track, an applicant must:

1. Have a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 (A = 4.00) for their B.S. degree in electrical engineering or computer engineering at UNLV.
2. Have completed up to a maximum of 9 credits of formal Graduate College curriculum approved 600/700 level courses (which excludes informal courses such as Graduate Independent Study, Graduate Seminar, and Special Topics) which were applied towards the student's B.S. degree. Each graduate level course must have been completed with a minimum grade of B (3.0).

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.