

Doctor of Philosophy – Mechanical Engineering Admission to the Major

To enter Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) - Mechanical Engineering, a student must be admitted to the UNLV Graduate College. One can visit the web page of UNLV Graduate College (www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege) for Graduate College admission requirements, application and deadlines.

Application for the Ph.D. program can be completed by one of two mechanisms. The Post-Master's Track requires the student to complete an M.S. degree in Engineering or equivalent with a major in mechanical engineering or closely related fields (nuclear engineering or health physics for the Nuclear concentration track). The Post-Bachelor's Track allows those undergraduates with outstanding undergraduate backgrounds to enter the Ph.D. program without having to complete an M.S. degree. The degree requirements for both options are the same beyond the B.S. degree excluding the completion of a master's thesis.

In order to be admitted to the Ph.D. program in Engineering in the field of Mechanical Engineering, a student must complete the following requirements:

1. Applicants must complete the on-line process in the “Apply Yourself (AY)” system.
2. In addition to the required information in the general AY application system, the Department of Mechanical Engineering has two additional requirements which can also be submitted in the AY system as optional items. Electronic submission is a preferred method. If these items are not completed in the AY system before you finish and make payment, you cannot go back and do them electronically afterwards. In this case, you must mail hard copies to the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The two requirements are:
 - a. Submit a written statement of purpose indicating interests and objectives in working toward a Ph.D. degree. This is a 1-2 page essay describing the applicant's reasons for considering graduate study, goals after completion of the graduate degree, and the applicant's specific areas of interest.

- b. Submit three letters of recommendation using the online recommendation system. There is no specified format. Each letter should detail the potential of the applicant for advanced graduate work in Mechanical Engineering.
3. Candidates can be admitted on a regular or provisional status. Qualified applicants who are not admitted can take graduate courses as a non-degree seeking student but only 15 credits can be counted toward the degree program.
4. The applicant must submit his/her official copy of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores. To be admitted to the graduate program in Mechanical Engineering, the applicant must be at or above the 75 percentile range (of the group taking the GRE when the applicant takes the exam) in the quantitative reasoning section of the exam. If the applicant is less than 75 percent, at the discretion of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the applicant may be provisionally admitted to the graduate program with the requirement that he/she retake the GRE during the first semester after admission. If the applicant fails to retake the GRE during the first semester after admission or if the applicant fails to be at or above the 75 percent range in the quantitative reasoning section of the exam after retaking the exam, at its discretion, the Department of Mechanical Engineering may remove the applicant from the graduate program. The GRE university code for UNLV is 4861. The Mechanical Engineering Department code is 1502.
5. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the [Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements](#).

Post-Master's Track

1. The applicant must have a Master of Science in Engineering degree or equivalent with a major in mechanical engineering or a closely allied field. Students with non-engineering backgrounds will be required to complete a set of course work requirements that will assure successful completion of the Ph.D. specialization and qualify the student to sit for the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. The Graduate Program Committee (GPC) will decide upon special cases.
2. A minimum post-baccalaureate GPA of 3.30 (on a 4.00 scale) is required for graduates from accredited U.S. institutions. The Graduate College is responsible for international GPA interpretation.

Post-Bachelor's Track

1. The applicant must have a bachelor's degree in engineering or a closely related discipline. Students with non-engineering backgrounds will be required to complete a set of course work requirements that will assure successful completion of the Ph.D. specialization and qualify the student to sit for the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE)

exam. The department Graduate Program Committee (GPC) will decide upon special cases.

2. A minimum GPA of 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale) is required for graduates from accredited U.S. institutions. The Graduate College is responsible for international GPA interpretation.

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.