



# Fast Track Master of Science

High-achieving undergraduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University have an opportunity to significantly reduce the time required to obtain their Master of Science (MS) in mechanical engineering following completion of their Bachelor of Science in engineering (BSE) degree.

## BENEFITS

1. Decrease the time to get a graduate degree by approximately one year.
2. Once a graduate student, you would be eligible to compete for graduate assistant teacher (GAT) or graduate assistant researcher (GAR) appointments, which provide the following:
  - A monthly stipend of around \$1,500 / month,
  - Tuition, and
  - Health insurance.
3. Professors generally prefer fast-track committed undergraduate students when hiring for lab assistant positions. You can begin research work as an undergraduate student in a faculty member's lab that builds knowledge and interest in what could become your thesis research project.

4. You are eligible to apply for University based Graduate Merit and/or Diversity based Fellowships which have significant stipend, insurance and tuition benefits. The application must be submitted during the fall semester of your senior year and a faculty advocate is required.

For more information visit:

<http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities>

## HOW IT WORKS

1. There are 32 credit hours required to satisfy an MS degree. Of these 32 credits, 24 hours are course work (eight classes), one hour is a seminar class and seven hours are thesis research hours.
2. If planned well, you could take at least four classes during your undergraduate studies that count toward your graduate degree. Two of these four courses could also count toward your undergraduate degree, if selected from the "stacked course" list.
3. If step 2 is satisfied, then your remaining requirements for the MS degree consist of:
  - Four courses (12 credit hours)
  - One hour seminar course
  - A minimum of seven credit hours of thesis research
  - Completion of your thesis

## Notes

1. It is not required that you take four graduate level courses in your final year of undergraduate studies; doing so, however, maximizes your capability to finish your MS within one year of BSE graduation.
2. The department is ever-seeking to expand its offering of stacked courses, which create an opportunity for a fast-track student to have a graduate course apply toward both the undergraduate BS and graduate MS degrees.
3. Before making the decision to pursue the fast track MS program it is advisable that students schedule a visit with one of the department's undergraduate advisors.

