

Ocean Engineering Department Graduate Student Guidelines

Effective October 9, 2023

Overview

The Texas A&M University (TAMU) Ocean Engineering Department was founded in 2016 after being a part of the Civil Engineering Department for many years. This newly formed department is one of a very few ocean engineering academic programs within the U.S. Our department is unique at Texas A&M in that we are collocated on the Galveston and College Station campuses. Approximately half of our graduated students are located on each campus, and they are advised by approximately twelve faculty permanently located at each site. Due to this split in locations, some courses are delivered remotely across campuses. Further details regarding our facilities can be found at the following web address: <https://engineering.tamu.edu/ocean/index.html>

Who May Apply

The TAMU Ocean Engineering Department offers graduate studies to students worldwide regardless of nationality. Prospective applicants should normally already have or are nearing completion of a baccalaureate degree in Ocean Engineering or a related field. In some special cases students from other disciplines may be accepted subject to the completion of remedial coursework subsequent to enrollment within the department at the graduate level.

The application process for students wishing to enroll in Ocean Engineering is detailed at the following web address:

<https://engineering.tamu.edu/ocean/admissions-and-aid/graduate-admissions/index.html>

Ocean Engineering Graduate Degrees Offered

The TAMU Ocean Engineering Department offers the following graduate degrees:

- M.S. (non-thesis option)
- M.S. (thesis option)
- M.Eng.
- Ph.D.

These are described in some detail below.

NOTE: *All students obtaining a graduate degree in Ocean Engineering at Texas A&M University must have a committee chair or co-chair who is on the faculty in the TAMU Ocean Engineering Department.*

1. M.S. (Non-Thesis Option)

The Master of Science (M.S.) Non-Thesis Option offers perhaps the most direct access to a graduate degree in our department. This degree requires that students take minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate coursework. Of these, a maximum of 6 hours credit may be transferred from other academic institutions, and transfer of credit is by approval of the TAMU Graduate College. Graduate students within the department normally take 9-12 credit hours of coursework per semester, but students may also elect to take courses part-time (while continuing full-time professional employment). The amount of time required to complete the degree therefore can range from one to three years. As described in the section entitled ***Financial Assistance***, the number of hours a graduate student is allowed to take at any one time is limited if the student is either employed by TAMU or granted a fellowship while pursuing graduate studies.

2. M.S. (Thesis Option)

The M.S. Thesis Option is similar to the non-thesis option in that 30 credit hours are required to complete the degree, but differs in that about 6 thesis credit hours (OCEN 691) are allocated to the completion of the M.S. thesis. Most students who follow this academic path require one or more semesters than those pursuing the M.S. Thesis Option, due to the intellectual rigor involved in completing the M.S. thesis.

3. M. Eng.

The Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree also requires 30 credit hours to complete the requirements for the degree, but normally requires a technical report in lieu of a thesis. This report is usually less rigorous than the thesis, and academic credit for the report may account for 3-6 credit hours toward the degree.

4. Ph.D.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree may be completed in one of two ways: either without having completed an M.S., thereby requiring a total of 94 credit hours; or

having previously completed an M.S. or M.Eng., thereby requiring a total of 64 credit hours toward the degree. Of these, typically about 30 credit hours are accounted for as thesis hours.

Course Restrictions

The Ocean Engineering Department offers a range of graduate courses, all of which are listed as OCEN 6XX, not to mention upper-level undergraduate courses, listed as 3XX and 4XX. Up to nine hours of undergraduate courses may be included on departmental graduate degree plan. Furthermore, as mentioned previously up to 6 credit hours may be transferred from a creditable university, subject to approval by the TAMU Graduate College.

Students may also take courses from TAMU departments other than Ocean Engineering. Common examples are: MATH, MEEN, AERO, and OCNG. However, it should be noted that these courses are subject to approval by both the student's thesis committee and the Ocean Engineering Department Graduate Advisor.

Additional Guidelines

In addition, the following guidelines are to be followed at all times in the Ocean Engineering Department:

- All M.S., M.Eng. and Ph.D. defenses are to be publicly announced at least one week in advance and open to the public.
- Copies of recent theses are to be available for public consumption in a readily available location within the department.
- All Ph.D. defenses are to be held no sooner than six months after completion of the Preliminary Exam.
- All M.S. and Ph.D. theses are expected to meet the requirements for publication in a reputable and peer-reviewed research journal.