Policies

Graduate School Policies

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

Named Option-Specific Policies

Prior Coursework

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
A student may transfer graduate coursework from other institutions with program approval. These courses may not be used toward the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Residence Credit. Coursework earned five years or more prior to admission to the master’s program is not allowed to satisfy requirements. Reach out to the BME Graduate Coordinator for more information.

UW-Madison Undergraduate
A student who has completed their bachelor’s degree at UW-Madison may transfer 6 credits of coursework with program approval. These courses must be coursework numbered 400 level or above. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a M.S. degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements. These courses may not be used toward the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Residence Credit.

UW-Madison University Special
With program approval and payment of the difference in tuition (between Special and graduate tuition), students are allowed to count up to 15 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison Special student toward the minimum graduate residence credit requirement and, the minimum graduate degree credit requirement; if that coursework is numbered 700 or above it may be used to satisfy the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement.

Probation
The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

Advisor / Committee
Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

Credits Per Term Allowed
15 credits

Time Constraints
The accelerated MS program is typically completed in less than 18 months.

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements but that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

Grievances and Appeals
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
  - Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
  - Employee Assistance (http://www.aoe.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
  - Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
  - Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
  - Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
  - Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
  - Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
  - Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

BME Grievance Procedures
If a student feels unfairly treated or aggrieved by faculty, staff, or another student, the University offers several avenues to resolve the grievance.

Step 1
The student is encouraged to speak first with the person toward whom the grievance is directed to see if a situation can be resolved at this level. Students are also encouraged to talk with their faculty advisors regarding concerns or difficulties, or reach out to the Graduate Student Services Coordinator or Associate Chair of BME Graduate Advising for additional assistance. These activities do not rise to the level of a formal grievance;
however, the student is encouraged to keep documentation of these interactions as they may be useful if a formal grievance is pursued.

Step 2

Should a satisfactory resolution not be achieved, a formal grievance can be filed with the BME Grievance Committee. To do so, the student contacts the Department Administrator, who will provide the student with the name of the current chair of the Grievance Committee. The student will then contact the Chair of the Grievance Committee, who will reply within seven calendar days. If the grievance is with the current Chair of the Grievance Committee, please let the Department Administrator know and they will identify an alternate committee member to contact. It is advised that grievances are filed within 60 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment to enable a thorough investigation.

Step 3

If the student does not feel comfortable working through the departmental process, they are encouraged to seek out other campus resources including:

- The Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs in the College of Engineering
- The Graduate School
- UW Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement (DDEEA)
- McBurney Disability Resource Center
- Employee Assistance Office
- Ombuds Office
- University Health Services

Step 4

At this point, if either party (the student or the person toward whom the grievance is directed) is unsatisfied with the decision of the faculty committee, the party may file a written appeal. Either party has ten working days to file a written appeal to the School/College. For more information, students should consult the College of Engineering Academic Advising Policies and Procedures.

Step 5

Documentation of the grievance will be stored for at least seven years. Significant grievances that set a precedent will be stored indefinitely. The Graduate School has procedures for students wishing to appeal a grievance decision made at the school/college level. These policies are described in the Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures.

OTHER

Due to the accelerated, course-based nature of the Biomedical Engineering Accelerated Master's program, students cannot hold funded appointments such as research assistantships, teaching assistantships, or project assistantships, either inside the BME department or elsewhere on campus. These appointments may impact the student's progress and are inconsistent with the nature of an accelerated program. Compliance with this policy will be confirmed by regular audits of appointments. Students can be placed in probation for failure to adhere to these policies.

In the uncommon instance that a BME Accelerated MS student has an offer for a funded appointment (research assistantship, teaching assistantship, or project assistantship) they may appeal this policy. In order to initiate the process, the student should contact the Associate Chair of the Master's degree program, Darlis Suarez-Gonzalez and provide details on the funded position. Dr. Suarez-Gonzalez will bring the student's request to the other members of the appeals committee and the committee will determine if the student can accept the funded appointment. The student may not accept the position without approval from the appeals committee.

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate, graduate or certificate programs.