CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, PH.D.

The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering has a tradition of excellence dating back to 1905. For over a century, the program has consistently ranked as one of the best in the world. The department offers research opportunities in both traditional and emerging areas of research in chemical and biological engineering. These areas include energy-related science and technology, soft and hard materials science and engineering, systems engineering and optimization, catalysis, process control and design, nanotechnology, biotechnology, biomedical engineering, complex fluids, colloid and interfacial phenomena, atomic, molecular, and multiscale modeling, polymers (synthesis and processing), micro- and nano-electronics, environmental engineering and sustainability, reactor design, and atomic-scale design of surface reactivity. These areas of research are advanced by leveraging tools from the fields of applied mathematics, statistical mechanics, kinetics and catalysis, thermodynamics, and transport phenomena. The graduate courses are planned to train outstanding students for advanced work in research and development. Graduate students in the department are encouraged to participate in international research experiences, industry internships, and entrepreneurial activities.

Research in the department is highly interdisciplinary, capitalizing on programs of national prominence such as the NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC), the nation's largest NIH-funded biotechnology training program, and the Computation and Informatics in Biology and Medicine training program. Interdisciplinary research opportunities are also available through the Materials Science Program, the Center for Nanotechnology, and the Rheology Research Center. Researchers in the department have access to state-of-the-art facilities for research, including facilities for nanofabrication and the life sciences.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s). Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>October 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Required.*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English Proficiency Test
Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).

Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required 3

* The GRE requirement is waived for the fall 2022 and spring 2023 application cycles due to COVID-19.

Students with a strong background in chemical engineering or related field and a strong interest in research are encouraged to apply for admission. Most applicants accepted into the program have grade-point averages well above the Graduate School minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. All applicants are required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) general test. Applications are evaluated on the basis of previous academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and personal statement. The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering does not consider applications for a terminal M.S. degree; the department admits only to the Ph.D. An M.S. degree can be awarded post admission as an alternative to the Ph.D. degree. The M.S. degree is not a prerequisite for the Ph.D. degree.

Applicants with degrees in the physical or life sciences or other engineering fields are encouraged to apply for admission into the Ph.D. graduate program. These students should contact the chair of the graduate admissions committee to discuss their preparation for the graduate program. Students are not accepted for spring semester except when space is available. Fall applications and supporting materials must be received by December 15.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Students admitted to the graduate program are guaranteed financial support from the department in the form of research assistantships, teaching assistantships and fellowships. Support will continue as long as the student maintains satisfactory progress toward their degree.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements | Detail
---|---
Minimum Credit Requirement | 51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement | 32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement | 26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School's Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244). (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/)
Overall 3.00 GPA required.
Graduate GPA Requirement | This program follows the Graduate School's GPA Requirement policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203).

Other Grade Requirements At least two of the core graduate classes must be taken in the first semester of residence in the graduate program, and at least four core graduate classes must be completed with grades of B or better, preferably by the end of the second semester of residence. A student who receives one grade of BC or lower in a core class but who wishes to remain in the PhD program must take the fifth core course or re-take the low graded core course preferably in the third semester, and the student must receive a B or better.

A student who receives more than one grade of BC or lower in core graduate classes will be placed in the M.S. program. Upon successful completion of the M.S. program, the student may petition the full faculty for readmission to the Ph.D. program.

A student who receives an average of 3.0 or higher on their preliminary exam becomes a candidate for the Ph.D. program. A student who does not receive an average score of 3.0 or higher in the qualifying process is placed in the M.S. program. Upon successful completion of the M.S. program, the student may petition the full faculty to be readmitted to the Ph.D. program.

Assessments and Examinations A Ph.D. candidate who has met the grade requirements must complete a preliminary exam consisting of a written report and oral examination.

During the fall semester of the fourth year of the program, candidates will participate in a mandatory research progress meeting with their thesis committee.

The Ph.D. candidate defends a written thesis in a final oral examination.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or Graduate/Professional certificate.

The Ph.D. candidate is required to undertake a program of coursework in a field other than chemical and biological engineering. This requirement may be satisfied by an external minor (option A), a distributed minor (option B), or a Graduate/Professional certificate (option C).

The minor/certificate, whether Option A, B, or C, is designed to represent a coherent body of work, and should not be simply an after-the-fact ratification of a number of courses taken outside the major department. To ensure coherence, the student must consult with his or her advisor. The Ph.D. Minor Agreement Form should be submitted for approval at an early date, before the student is halfway through the proposed course sequence.

REQUIRED COURSES

Students must complete at least six semester courses (totaling at least 18 credits) in the CBE department. Four courses will be core CBE courses and two will be CBE electives, chosen at the discretion of the student in consultation with their advisor. These classroom courses shall be in the range numbered 500-899 and will not be laboratory courses, Independent Studies or Research. Grades of B or better are required in all CBE courses used towards degree requirements.
At least four of the six CBE courses shall be selected from these core graduate courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBE 620</td>
<td>Intermediate Transport Phenomena</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBE 660</td>
<td>Intermediate Problems in Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBE 710</td>
<td>Advanced Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBE 735</td>
<td>Kinetics and Catalysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBE 781</td>
<td>Biological Engineering: Molecules, Cells &amp; Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At least two of the core graduate courses must be taken in the first semester of residence in the graduate program, and at least four core graduate courses must be completed with grades of B or better, preferably by the end of the second semester of residence. A student who receives one grade of BC or lower in a core class but who wishes to remain in the Ph.D. program must take the fifth core course or re-take the low graded core course preferably in the third semester, and the student must receive a B or better. Students are expected to take a total of four courses in their first semester of residence. The requirement of four core CBE graduate courses shall not be met by substitution of other courses. Students matriculating with an M.S. degree from another university may, with department approval, use up to two courses from their M.S. work toward the requirement of six CBE graduate courses.

Students taking advanced courses outside the department in excess of breadth requirements may, with department approval, use up to two of these courses toward the requirement of six CBE graduate courses. Seminar courses may not be used to satisfy CBE course requirements.

Elective course requirement: Students must complete at least one course totaling at least three credits. Courses must be numbered 300 and above. A B average is required. Pass/fail or audit courses may not be used for the elective course requirement. Courses used to satisfy the breadth program may not be used for the elective course requirement. Advisor approval is required and secured through submission of the Ph.D. Elective Course Approval Form. Elective courses can be foreign language courses.

Teaching assistantship: Each student in the Ph.D. program is required to serve as a teaching assistant (TA) for two semesters. Under normal circumstances, each student should serve as a TA one semester of the second year and one semester of the third year. Requests for alternate arrangements, partial or full waiver of the requirement, should be submitted in writing to the Graduate Program Committee.

### MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

This program follows the Graduate School’s policy for Satisfying Requirements with Prior Graduate Coursework from Other Institutions. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/)

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

This program follows the Graduate School’s policy for Satisfying Requirements with Coursework from Undergraduate Career at UW–Madison. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/)

**UW–Madison University Special**

This program follows the Graduate School’s policy for Transfer from UW–Madison University Special Student Career at UW–Madison. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/)

### PROBATION

A student who receives more than one grade of BC or lower in core graduate courses will be placed in the M.S. program. Upon successful completion of the M.S. program, the student may petition the full faculty for readmission to the Ph.D. program.

A student who receives an average of 3.0 or higher becomes a candidate for the Ph.D. program. A student who does not receive an average score of 3.0 or higher in the qualifying process is placed in the M.S. program. Upon successful completion of the M.S. program, the student may petition the full faculty to be readmitted to the Ph.D. program.

Students placed in the M.S. program are expected to finish the M.S. program within five semesters of admission into the Ph.D. program.

### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

This program follows the Graduate School’s Advisor policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1232/) and the Graduate School’s Committees policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1201/). Students should refer to the departmental Graduate Handbook of Academic Policies and Procedures for more information.

### CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

### TIME LIMITS

The CBE department expects students to complete their Ph.D. degree within five years. Any student unable to defend her or his thesis in this period must petition the faculty for an extension by July 1 of the fifth year, specifying reasons for the request and length of requested extension.

### 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/)

### 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.
The assistant dean for graduate affairs (engr-dean-graduateaffairs@engr.wisc.edu) provides overall leadership for graduate education in the College of Engineering (CoE), and is a point of contact for graduate students who have concerns about education, mentoring, research, or other difficulties.

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. Students' concerns about unfair treatment are best handled directly with the person responsible for the objectionable action. If the student is uncomfortable making direct contact with the individual(s) involved, they should contact the advisor or the person in charge of the unit where the action occurred (program or department chair, section chair, lab manager, etc.). For more information see the Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/)
The faculty committee will obtain a written response from the person, organization, or governing committee toward whom the complaint is directed. This response will be shared with the person filing the grievance.

5. The faculty committee will determine a decision regarding the grievance. The Graduate Associate Chair will report on the action taken by the committee in writing to both the student and the person, organization, or governing committee toward whom the complaint was directed within 20 working days from the date the complaint was received.

6. At this point, if either party (the student or the person, organization, or governing committee 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 10 working days to file a written appeal to the College of Engineering. The Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs (engr-dean-graduateaffairs@engr.wisc.edu) provides overall leadership for graduate education in the College of Engineering (CoE), and is a point of contact for graduate students who have concerns about education, mentoring, research, or other difficulties.

7. Documentation of the grievance will be stored for at least 7 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 College of Engineering level. These policies are described in the Graduate School's Academic Policies & Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/).

OTHER
Admitted students are offered research assistantships to support the pursuit of dissertation or degree research in chemical engineering. The stipend, after tuition and fees, is guaranteed for the duration of a student's graduate studies provided satisfactory progress is made toward their degree. Support for students receiving external funding or other program opportunities are reviewed case by case. Although students can be awarded M.S. degrees, there is no direct admission to the M.S. program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
The CBE Graduate Program office coordinates ongoing professional development workshops. Topics have included: life in industry, ethical decision making, intellectual property agreements, maintaining self-motivation, how to utilize software in creating figures, effective management of undergraduate researchers, effective management of your thesis advisor and individual development plans (IDPs).

Also, the Graduate School Office of Professional Development offers training opportunities for graduate students and this information is e-mailed to all of the CBE grad students on a regular basis. Examples of these training offerings include sharing of information about DELTA, dissertation writing, grant writing and job search strategies.
In order to foster effective teaching among our graduate students, all students are required to serve as a TA for two semesters. Before graduate students are allowed to TA, each must participate in the New Educator's Orientation (NEO) training offered each semester. They are also encouraged to connect with the University’s DELTA program.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Demonstrate an ability to synthesize knowledge from a subset of the biological, physical, and social sciences to help frame problems critical to the future of their discipline.
2. Conduct original research.
3. Demonstrate an ability to create new knowledge and communicate it to their peers.
4. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

**PEOPLE**

**PROFESSORS**
Eric V. Shusta (Chair)  
Michael David Graham  
George Huber  
Daniel J. Klingenberg  
David M. Lynn  
Manos Mavrikakis  
Regina Murphy  
Sean P. Palacek  
Brian F. Pfleger  
Thatcher Root  
John Yin  
Victor Zavala

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**
Ross E. Swaney

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**
Styliani Avraamidou  
Matthew Gebbie  
Siddarth Krishna  
Whitney Loo  
Marcel Schreier  
Reid Van Lehn

**TEACHING FACULTY**
Eric Codner  
Kate Dahlke  
Andrew Greenberg

**RESEARCH PROFESSOR**
William Banholzer

See also Chemical and Biological Engineering Faculty Directory (https://directory.engr.wisc.edu/che/faculty/).