

Student Questions about Graduate School

The following questions were submitted by previous students invited to attend the graduate school recruiting banquet.

Applications and admissions

- Who pays the tuition for graduate school?
- What are the admission requirements for graduate school?
- Where are the top 10 ChE graduate programs in the U.S.?
- When should I take the GRE exam? How do I prepare?
- Should I take graduate-level courses as an undergraduate?
- What kind of financial aid is available for people in the M.S. and Ph.D. programs? (government, school, and private)

Life as a graduate student

- What are the recommendations about doing graduate work at the same institution where you received your B.S. degree?
- What is it like raising children while attending graduate school?
- What is a general time-line of events for graduate school: When is course work and research done? When does a thesis topic need to be chosen? When do you choose a faculty advisor?
- Can I complete a minor while a graduate student?

Career trajectories

- Is it best to enter graduate school right after the B.S. degree or gain some industrial experience first?
- What are the "cons" to graduate school?
- Compare career possibilities of a B.S. degree in ChE, an MBA, and an M.S. in ChE.
- How will a graduate degree affect a ChE career?
- What types of work are done by B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. engineers?

BYU Graduate School Fact Sheet

For more information please see

<http://chemicalengineering.byu.edu> → prospective graduate students

Size of Program

There are 15 full-time faculty members and about 35 PhD students and 12 MS students.

Entrance Requirements

- 3.0 GPA in upper division ChE classes and 3.3 overall GPA
- GRE general exam (must do especially well on Quantitative)
- 3 Letters of recommendation – research experience a plus
- Fall application deadline: February 15

You can apply for either MS or PhD; admissions qualifications are similar but somewhat higher for PhD students. For PhD program, you are encouraged to take Math 347 as an undergraduate. MS students can change to PhD program later if get “high pass” on qualifying exam (held in Feb. of first year); PhD students must get “high pass” to continue.

Financial Aid

The department and the research advisor pay most of the tuition costs for PhD students; MS students pay their own tuition costs. All graduate students who are making satisfactory progress receive a stipend: \$23,000/year for PhD and \$22,000/year for MS.

Students are encouraged to seek competitive national fellowships from government agencies (e.g. NSF, DOD, DOE, EPA, NASA), private foundations (e.g. Hertz), and companies (e.g. Exxon). These can be used to augment support. BYU also has a competitive fellowship program for graduate students who are already attending.

MS Requirements Include:

30 credit hours = 23 hrs lecture classes + 7 hrs seminar/research

Must TA 10 hrs/week for one semester

Expected to write and publish 1 scientific paper, which can be turned into a thesis.

Target time for completion: 2 years

PhD Requirements Include:

54 credit hours = 34 hrs lecture classes + 20 hrs seminar/research.

Must TA for 10 hrs/week for two semesters or equivalent

Expected to write and publish 3 scientific papers, which can be turned into a dissertation.

Target time for completion: 4 years