



BSECE/MSE Integrated Program

Frequently Asked Questions

“When do I apply for the Stage I of the BSECE/MSE program?”

For the first stage application, students should have completed all of the basic sequence coursework (ECE 302, 306, 319K, 411, 312, 313, 351K or equivalents) and at least 10 credit hours of upper division coursework in ECE, likely in the student's primary technical core (it is likely that the primary technical core will be related to the targeted graduate track, but this is not required).

We suggest that students apply the semester before they enroll in ECE 364D.

If the student is taking ECE 364D in the Fall semester/ completing Undergraduate requirements in the Spring:

Spring Semester 1 (pre-Stage I)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Course Registration for Fall (March/April): Complete the Approval of Graduate Course Form and Reservation of Graduate Course for Grad Credit Form for Fall Course • Apply to Stage I by May 29 • Stage I admission decision by Mid-summer

Fall Semester 1 (Stage I Enrollment)	Spring Semester 2 (Stage I Enrollment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECE 364D ○ 1st Graduate course • During Course Registration for Spring (October/November): Complete the Approval of Graduate Course Form and Reservation of Graduate Course for Grad Credit form for Spring course • Apply to Stage II by December 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECE 464 ○ 2nd graduate course • Stage II Admission decision made by early Spring

Fall Semester 2 (Stage II Enrollment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Stage II (regular grad school enrollment)

If the student is taking ECE 364D in Spring / Completing undergraduate requirements in the Fall semester:

Fall Semester 1 (pre-Stage I)	Spring Semester 1 (Stage I Enrollment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Course Registration for Spring: Complete the Approval of Graduate Course Form and Reservation of Graduate Course for Grad Credit Form for Spring Course • Apply to Stage I by January 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stage II Admission by mid-January ○ Stage I admission decision by Mid-summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECE 364D ○ 1st Graduate course • During Course Registration for Fall: Complete the Approval of Graduate Course Form and Reservation of Graduate Course for Grad Credit form for Fall course • Apply to Stage II by May 15

Fall Semester 2 (Stage I Enrollment)	Spring Semester 2 (Stage II Enrollment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in ECE 464 • Enroll in 2nd graduate course • Stage II Admission decision made by mid-Fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Stage II (regular grad school enrollment)



“Do I need to have taken a graduate course before applying to Stage I?”

No. Stage I Applicants are not expected to have already completed graduate-level coursework.

“Can I, a non-ECE major, apply to the Integrated BSE/MSECE program?”

No. Applicants must be currently enrolled ECE students who have completed the basic sequence and 10 hours of ECE upper-division coursework.

“I’ve been admitted to Stage I but I need to drop my graduate class due to an issue. How does Q-dropping my class affect my Stage I status?”

Q-dropping a grad class will not affect a student’s status in Stage I. A student who drops their only graduate course will have to push back their Stage II application by one long semester, as applicants to Stage II must have completed at least one graduate class to apply (and Stage II applications are sent one year in advance of admission). Students in Stage I who are thinking about Q-dropping a grad class should email Brittney Outlaw (b.outlaw@austin.utexas.edu) to discuss.

Otherwise Stage I students will complete the Q-drop procedures in Engineering Student Services. Appointments are available via [EAB Navigate](#) (be sure to select “Engineering Student Services” as a location).

“I’m a double major, can I still apply to this program?”

Yes! Double majors can absolutely participate in this program! Students must be close to completion of both degrees when they apply to Stage I, and must fully complete (100% IDA completion) their other major before officially starting Stage II.

“I’m in Stage I and my degree audit says 99% and not 100%. Why is that?”

BSE/MSE Integrated students are not awarded their diploma until they finish both degrees. The IDA system is designed for awarding undergraduate diplomas only- it is not coded to handle profiles of students in the BSE/MSE program. Because of this IDA profiles will not reach 100% until you finish Stage II. Don’t panic! Email your advisor if you have questions.

“Can I walk in commencement/the Graduation Recognition Moment with my class, even though I’m delaying my official graduation until I finish my MSE degree?”

Yes! Students who are finished with their BSE degrees in Stage I are eligible to walk in commencement/the Graduation Recognition Moment, even though these students won’t be officially earning their BSE degree yet.

The ECE Advising team will email a link to RSVP for the Cockrell School event / Graduation Recognition Moment mid February or March. (There is no graduation ceremony in the Fall semester).

For questions and more information about University Commencement, please visit <https://commencement.utexas.edu/>



“I might have 1 class in my BSE remaining when I start Stage II. Is that okay?”

It’s a general rule that it is best if students have completed all undergraduate requirements while in Stage I (we often recommend students complete their final BSE course the summer before starting Stage II), but students can finish 1-2 undergraduate courses while working on their graduate program in Stage II. Most undergraduate departments prioritize courses for undergraduate students, so some Stage II students have encountered difficulty in registering for their remaining undergraduate hours. We encourage students to fully complete their BSE degree before beginning Stage II.

If a student has more than 1-2 undergraduate courses remaining, they will likely need to defer their Stage II admission by one long semester.

Students can email Brittney Outlaw (b.outlaw@austin.utexas.edu) with any specific questions about classes remaining.

“How does the course substitution work? What classes are substituted out of my BSE degree?”

See below. Two Advanced technical component electives are substituted with Graduate level-coursework in Stage I. Free electives are ineligible for substitution, as is the Advanced Technical Elective.

3	Fall	Wr E ECE 333T Engineering Communications ECE 312 or ECE 313	ECE 351K Probability / Random Processes M 427J	Advanced Tech Component Math	Advanced Tech Component	Varies GOV 310L ^{AP} American Government*
	Spring	Advanced Tech Elective 3 hours of upper division ECE course or ECE 316	Advanced Tech Component	Advanced Tech Component Laboratory	Advanced Tech Component	Free Elective: Advanced Math or Basic Science 14 hours required^
4	Fall	Wr ECE 364D/E Intro to Engineering Design ECE 333T Advanced Tech Component Lab: ECE 438, 440, 445L, 445S, 460J, 461L, 462L or 471C	Graduate Course 1 Advanced Tech Component	Advanced Tech Component	Free Elective 14 hours required^	Varies HIS ^{AP} US History Credit
	Spring	II ECE 464 K/H/R/S Senior Design Project ECE 364D/E & Advanced Tech Component Lab: ECE 438, 440, 445L, 445S, 460J, 461L, 462L or 471C	Graduate Course 2 Advanced Tech Component	Free Elective 14 hours required^	Varies HIS US History Credit	Varies GOV 312L or P American Government*



“What is it I need to remember about 120 hours?”

All degree requirements in a student’s IDA for the integrated program must add up to 120 hours. Students can check this by running an IDA and checking the “Credit Hour Totals” section at the bottom of the IDA.

Credit Hour Totals				
#	Done	Requirement	Required	Counted
1		60 semester hours must be taken in residence for an engineering degree. (1002007)	60 hours	28 hours
2		A minimum of 125 hours are required for the BS in Electrical Engineering. (1002174)	125 hours	55 hours

All other ECE students must complete 125 hours. Students in the BSE/MSE program must double check that their “counted” hours add up to 120. All courses on the ECE degree plan (except for graduate courses) count towards this requirement. It is possible that a student has completed all degree requirements and be below the 120 hour threshold. Students in this situation will be required to take additional undergraduate coursework in order to complete their BSE degree.

“I need to push back my Stage II admission due to an internship/job offer/other. What can I do?”

If something is interfering in your ability to start Stage II of the program, please reach out to Brittney Outlaw (b.outlaw@austin.utexas.edu) or Barry Levitch (blevittch@mail.utexas.edu) with details about your situation.

Typically, we can work with students encountering difficulties with starting Stage II.

“I want to apply to Stage I but I’ve completed more than 10 hours of upper division coursework /part or most of senior design. Can I still apply for the program?”

It depends- please email Brittney Outlaw (b.outlaw@austin.utexas.edu) with details about your situation.

If a student has less than one full semester remaining of coursework, we recommend they apply for an MSE program, not the integrated BSE/MSE. This program is designed to integrate with the BSE degree- if the student has already completed their BSE requirements then the traditional MSE path is best.

“What about my minor/certificate?”

While it’s best if students complete all of your undergraduate coursework before starting Stage II of the program, students may finish minors or certificates after completing their BSE degree. UT Austin allows students 1 academic year after finishing a BSE degree to finish any remaining coursework in a minor or certificate program. This means students have 1 academic year after beginning Stage II to finish up any remaining coursework.

“When do I officially become a graduate student?”

Integrated BSE/MSE students officially become a graduate student upon admission to Stage II of the program.



“Can I apply to other MSE programs when I apply to Stage II?”

Yes! Students can apply to MSE programs at other institutions while in Stage I of the program. Keep in mind, there is no guarantee that the graduate credits undertaken at UT Austin will apply to an MSE program at another institution.

“What if I apply to Stage II and don’t get in?”

If a student is not admitted into Stage II, the advising staff will reach out regarding scheduling an appointment and completing the “[Stage I Cancellation form](#)” found [here](#). We recommend students meet with advisor while they complete the form to verify they meet graduation requirements and to correctly designate which classes to apply to their BSE degree.

Students may choose to retain their completed graduate credits for graduate credit or apply the credits to their BSE degree to ensure a timely graduation.

“What will my diploma state when I finish the MSE degree?”

BSE/ECE students receive diplomas for a Bachelor of Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering and a Master of Science in Engineering when they complete their coursework for their Master’s degree.

“I’ve decided that I want to leave the program and graduate with my BSE degree. What do I do now?”

If a student no longer wishes to pursue the BSE/MSE program, they need to complete the “[Stage I Cancellation form](#)” found [here](#). We recommend students meet with an advisor to verify they meet graduation requirements and to correctly designate which classes to apply to their BSE degree.

In this document, students will indicate which graduate-level courses they wish to apply to their undergraduate degree requirements. An advisor will review the request and work on un-reserving these courses for graduate credit and applying them to the BSECE degree.

Students may also choose to keep graduate coursework completed as graduate level courses (as indicated on the form). Students who do so may need to complete additional undergraduate coursework to complete their BSE degree. An advisor will reach out to the student upon receipt of this form and confirm the student’s next steps.



“How long does it take to complete the full program?”

The Integrated BSECE/MSE removes 5 hours from the BSECE (from 125 hours to 120), and allows students to start graduate-level coursework (30 hours) two semesters early. It usually takes students at least a year and a half to complete the MSE portion of the degree once they are admitted to Stage II.

The following table shows how the Integrated BSECE/MSE program could be completed within five and a half years at UT Austin. Other options that extend or contract the plan are possible, please speak to an advisor about options specific to your situation.

First Year	
Fall (16 hours)	Spring (14 hours)
ECE 302 (3) ECE 306 (3) M 408C (4) RHE 306 (3) UGS 302/3 (3)	ECE 319K (3) M 408D (4) PHY 303K (3) PHY 105M (1) Social Behavioral Science (3)
Second Year	
Fall (15 hours)	Spring (15 hours)
ECE 411 (4) M 427J (4) PHY 303L (3) PHY 105N (1) Visual /Performing Arts (3)	ECE 313 (3) ECE 312 (3) M 340L (3) E 316L (3) GOV 310L (3)
Third Year	
Fall (16-17 hours)	Spring (16-17 hours)
ECE 333T (3) ECE 351K (3) Tech Component Math (3/4) Tech Component Adv Lab (4) Tech Component Requirement (3/4)	Tech Component Requirement (3/4) Tech Component Elective (3/4) Math or Science (3/4) Free Elective (3/4) Apply to Stage I
Fourth Year (Finish BSE and start Stage I)	
<i>Stage I:</i> Fall (15-16 hours)	<i>Stage I:</i> Spring (16 hours)
ECE 364D (3) HIS 315L (3) Tech Component Elective (3) Free Elective (3/4) Graduate Class (3) Apply to Stage II	ECE 464 (4) GOV 312L (3) HIS 315K (3) Free Elective (3) Graduate Class (3)
Fifth Year (Graduate student status - Stage II)	
<i>Stage II</i> Fall (9-10 hours)	<i>Stage II</i> Spring (9-10 hours)
Graduate Class (3) Graduate Class (3) Graduate Class (3)	Graduate Class (3) Graduate Class (3) Graduate Class (3)
Sixth Year (Graduate student status - Stage II cont'd)	
Stage II Fall (6 hours)	
Graduate Class (3) Graduate Class (3)	