

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADVICE

Many of our graduates choose to enter graduate school, either full-time or part-time after graduation. Of these, some elect to pursue advanced degrees in engineering, business, law, or even medicine. The following provides guidance about deciding whether graduate school is for you, what type of graduate program is most suitable, where to attend, and how to get there.

Is Graduate School for You?

The most important reason for going to graduate school is to prepare for the type of employment and life that you will enjoy.

In engineering, an advanced degree is critical for positioning for career opportunities in research and development. It is also important for developing specialized knowledge in particular disciplines.

Graduate School - Now or Later?

If you know exactly what you want to study and why, the time is now. If you are undecided about what you want to do, it's best to work for a while and determine your course before you commit yourself to intensive graduate work, and many employers offer educational benefits. Graduate schools can be addressed through part-time programs.

Schedule for Applying to Graduate School in Engineering

Junior Year: Begin thinking about options for graduate school. What would you like to study. ...If your interest is in graduate engineering, conducting research as an undergraduate is especially important to gaining fellowship support of your graduate studies (e.g., getting it paid for).

Summer: Begin investigating different programs around the country. Find out what schools have curriculum in research of interest to you. Don't hesitate to also conduct specific faculty who are doing work in the area that you are interested in.

Fall of Senior Year: Begin applying to programs. Usually you can do this on-line. Refer to the graduate web sites of the schools that you are looking at. A part of the application process requires you to write essays about your educational goals. MAE faculty can help review your essays.

Fall of Senior Year: Before October - Take GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, etc...

Fall of Senior Year: If you have high GRE scores, undergraduate research experience, and great grades you may be poised to apply for prestigious fellowships like the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship among others.

Graduate School Entrance Tests

Many post-graduate programs in engineering require you to take entrance tests to help them evaluate your application. Engineering—GRE; Law School—LSAT; Business Schools—GMAT; Medical School—MCAT

University of Dayton Graduate Guidance Center (GGC) at U.D. provides information about fellowships, graduate schools, and GRE test dates, visit Alumni Hall, Room 125.

Graduate School at U.D. in Mechanical Engineering

U.D. offers a 5 year Bachelor's/Master's Program. In this, your 2 open electives and 2 mechanical engineering electives can be used to take graduate courses in engineering or mathematics. These courses would double count, i.e., count toward you Bachelor's and Master's degrees, then would need only 4 classes plus a thesis or 6 classes/no thesis to receive your Master's degree above your Bachelor's degree. This could be accomplished in two semesters.

You might be able to support your tuition plus receive a stipend of \$1,000 per month by obtaining research support from one of our faculty or faculty in the Research Institute. Contact your department chairperson for more details about the opportunities for graduate support.