

## **MSCE Graduate Admissions:**

### **Program Admission Requirements**

**Admission to the proposed MSCE program will follow USA Graduate School, College of Engineering, and Department of Civil Engineering criteria.**

#### **1. Graduate School Requirements:**

Applicants to the Graduate school may be admitted in one of the following categories.

1. Regular Admission - Regular admission requires the following:
  - A. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
  - B. A minimal grade-point average of 3.00 on all undergraduate work ("A"=4.00). The grade-point average used is that computed by the Office of Admissions.
  - C. Sufficient courses in the major subject to qualify for graduate study in the involved discipline. A student who has a deficiency in courses in the discipline but who otherwise qualifies for Regular Admission will be required to complete appropriate prerequisite course work.
  - D. Recommendation of the appropriate Coordinator/Chair, Director of Graduate Studies and approval by the Graduate Dean.
  - E. International students must submit documentary evidence showing TOEFL test scores of 525 or above (197 on computer based test), or a bachelor's or graduate degree earned at an accredited United States institution of higher education.
  - F. Most graduate programs require standardized test scores for admission. See the individual program descriptions elsewhere in this Bulletin for details.

For those students who have had previous graduate work, performance at the graduate level may be taken into consideration as well as undergraduate performance. An earned advanced degree may substitute for some admission requirements (see description of specific program).

2. Provisional Admission - Students who do not meet the requirements for Regular Admission may be admitted to the Provisional Admission category. A student in provisional status will not be allowed to enroll in courses other than those specified by their program of study. Provisional Admission requires:
  - A. A bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education.
  - B. A minimal grade-point average of 2.5 on all undergraduate work ("A"=4.00) or 2.75 on the last 64 hours of college work. The grade-point average used is that computed by the Office of Admissions. Graduate Directors or Coordinators of each graduate program may recommend consideration of other factors in the review of an application.
  - C. Recommendation of the appropriate Coordinator/Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, the Dean of the College/School, and the Graduate Dean.

- D. International students must submit documentary evidence showing TOEFL Test Scores of 525 or above (197 on computer based test), or a bachelor's or graduate degree earned at an accredited United States institution of higher education.
- E. Most graduate programs require standardized test scores for admission. See the individual program descriptions elsewhere in this Bulletin for details.

For a Provisional student to be changed to Regular status, the following are required:

- A. Provisional students will be eligible for Regular status after accruing a minimum of nine (9) semester hours of course work taken at the University of South Alabama for graduate credit toward degree requirements, provided at least a "B" average is maintained in all such work attempted. No more than 15 semester hours of graduate credit earned as a Provisional Admission student may be approved for change of status to Regular Admission. The Provisional student who does not have the required "B" average upon completing 15 semester hours of graduate credit will be subject to dismissal from the graduate program and the Graduate School. See appropriate college or school and/or department section of this publication for any additional requirements. At all times, students are subject to the policy stated in the Academic Standards Section entitled "[Academic Dismissal](#)."
  - B. Approval by the appropriate Director/ Coordinator of Graduate Studies, and Dean of the College/School.
3. Non-Degree Admission - Students holding baccalaureate degrees from accredited institutions of higher education who are not interested in earning graduate degrees or who need to complete prerequisites for particular degree programs may enroll as Non-Degree graduate students. A suitable background for the courses to be taken is expected.

Because of limited class size and resources, academic units may limit the enrollment of Non-Degree students. After admission, permission to enter each course is obtained from the Graduate Director/Coordinator in the appropriate college, school and/or department. Non-Degree students subsequently seeking admission into one of the graduate degree programs of the University must submit a formal application through the Office of Admissions to the Graduate Director/ Coordinator of the appropriate college, school and/or department. Students may be subject to further conditions, such as the completion of necessary undergraduate background courses. The student's record in graduate courses taken while in the Non-Degree status may be considered. A maximum of 15 semester hours of graduate credit earned while in Non-Degree status may be applied toward a graduate degree if the student is later admitted to a graduate program of study. International students must submit documentary evidence showing TOEFL test scores of 525 or above, or

bachelor's or graduate degrees earned at accredited United States institutions of higher education.

## 2. College of Engineering Requirements:

The following criteria supplement the Graduate School criteria (see [Categories of Admission](#)):

1. Regular Admission
  - a) B.S. degree in engineering in a relevant field, from an ABET accredited program.
  - b) For those students not holding a B.S. degree in engineering from an ABET accredited program: a B.S. degree in engineering in a relevant field and a minimum combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam.
2. Provisional Admissions
  - a) B.S. degree in engineering from an ABET accredited program or a minimum combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination is required. Applicants for Chemical Engineering may substitute an American Chemical Society accredited B.S. degree in chemistry in place of the B.S. degree from an ABET accredited program.
  - b) A B.S. in engineering or in a field acceptable to the departmental Graduate Admissions Committee is required. Depending on the student's background additional undergraduate preparatory courses may be required. These courses will not count toward the Master's degree.
  - c) A minimum grade-point average of 2.5 on all undergraduate work (A=4.0) including a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 over the last 64 course hours of undergraduate work or, a minimum grade-point average of 2.75 over the last 64 course hours of undergraduate work is required.
3. Non-degree Admission
  - a) Non-degree admissions are accepted in accordance with Graduate School requirements.

Each applicant will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee of the appropriate department which may reserve the right to evaluate additional credentials, such as, but not limited to, course work taken, letter of recommendation, etc. At the beginning of the first semester, international students, except those who have earned a bachelor's or graduate degree at an accredited United States institution of higher learning, are given a foreign language test by the University. Students with deficiencies in English skills are assessed by the test and will be required to take and successfully complete a special English Communication ESL course tailored to Engineering. This course will be in addition to other requirements for the degree. The above are minimum requirements for admission.

### 3. Department of Civil Engineering Requirements:

In addition to the Graduate School and the College of Engineering admission requirements, requirements for admission to the program leading to the Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree include the following criteria:

1. An undergraduate engineering degree from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Applicants who do not meet this criterion, but who have an outstanding academic record in an engineering degree program not accredited by ABET, or in a baccalaureate degree program in a related field, may be admitted as “provisional”. Students admitted as “provisional” may be required to complete a sequence of undergraduate courses in addition to the normal requirements of the M.S.C.E. degree. This set of extra requirements will be formulated by the student’s graduate committee.
2. 3.0 (A=4.0) or better GPA in all undergraduate degree courses, or a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate degree courses attempted;
3. Names and email addresses of three (3) references who can evaluate the applicant’s previous academic and professional work.
4. Submission of scores achieved on the GRE General test. Admission to the program is competitive and is based on all available evidence; for admission in good academic standing, a score above 600 on the quantitative section and a total (quantitative and verbal) of 1000 on the GRE General Test are required. Minimum scores of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and a 3.5 on the Test of Written English (TWE) are also required for those applicants whose native language is not English.
5. Verification of registration by examination as a Professional Engineer (P.E.) will satisfy criteria 2, 3, and 4 above.