



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) Program: BSEE or BSCpE→MS

The Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering allows well-qualified **EE and CpE** undergraduates to follow an “Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's” (ABM) study plan. This plan permits up to **six credit hours of graduate coursework** to count towards **both** the Bachelor's (as Technical Electives) **and** the Master's degrees, so that the Master's degree is earned faster than usual. (The coursework concerned must individually satisfy the requirements of **both** degrees.)

Example: the MSEE degree requires 30 total credit hours (for thesis option, 24 credit hours of coursework plus six credit hours of thesis work). ABM students may take up to **six** of the MSEE **coursework** credit hours as Technical Electives for their BSEE or BSCpE degrees, leaving only 24 credit hours of coursework (for non-thesis option) or 18 credit hours of coursework plus six credit hours of thesis work (for thesis option) needed to earn the MSEE degree.

Eligibility requirements:

- Must have at least **3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA** (at USA), and
- Must have completed at least **90 credit hours** (i.e., senior status; within two semesters of BSEE or BSCpE graduation), and
- Must have completed at least **30 credit hours at USA**.

A student who later withdraws or is dismissed from the ABM program may not count graduate coursework towards both degrees. Graduate courses will only be counted towards the MSEE degree if the undergraduate student earns an “A” or “B” grade.

An ABM student **must be a full time student** and must complete all degree requirements for the Master's degree within three semesters of the semester in which they were admitted to the Graduate School. An exception for a fourth semester may be granted where an additional semester is required for final revisions to and submission of a defended thesis. Thesis option students must form the thesis committee during the second semester of the program at the latest. Exceptions to the Electrical and Computer Engineering ABM program policy are at the discretion of the Department Chair and the Dean of the Graduate School.

Procedure:

If you satisfy these eligibility requirements, and wish to be considered for the ABM program:

1. Discuss ABM with the Department Chair and/or your advisor, for course planning;
2. Complete an undergraduate Advising Form at <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/engineering/currentstudents/resources/engineeringadvisingform.pdf> incorporating the ABM courses you have chosen;
3. Complete and print **both** the ABM Declaration form at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/graduateschool/abmdeclarationform.pdf> **and** the form requesting authorization to use graduate courses at https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/registrar/graduate_level_course_for_undergraduate_degree.pdf incorporating the ABM courses you have chosen;
4. Submit these printed forms to the Department Chair for formal approval and routing; and
5. Enroll in the **graduate section (500-level)** of your chosen ABM Technical Elective(s) (note that this will require course overrides).

These 500-level Technical Electives will count towards the MSEE degree after you apply for graduate school (after completing the BS degree) and successfully complete nine additional credit hours of graduate courses.