

## **Combined Degree Program**

### **BS in Biosystems Engineering and MS in Biosystems Engineering**

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Biosystems Engineering (BE) majors at Clemson University may begin a Master of Science (MS) degree in Biosystems Engineering while completing a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in BE. The BE undergraduate curriculum allows up to 6 credits of mutually acceptable graduate course credits to satisfy requirements of both degrees.

#### **A. Undergraduate/graduate transition**

1. Undergraduate students having a minimum overall GPR of 3.4 and a minimum of 90 credit hours may apply for acceptance by the Graduate School and to the joint BS/MS program. If accepted, students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 in BE to continue enrollment in this joint program.
2. In consultation with the student's undergraduate advisor in BE and the graduate coordinator for the BE program, a BE student may choose up to 6 credit hours to satisfy the requirements of both degree programs. Examples for how this may be implemented include:
  - a. During their senior year, students in the Ecological Engineering emphasis may take up to 6 credits of courses at the 6000- or 8000-level to fulfill the Ecological Engineering Requirement, Ecological Requirement and/or the Global Sustainability Requirement.
  - b. During their senior year, students in the Bioprocess Engineering emphasis may take up to 6 credits of courses at the 6000- or 8000-level to fulfill the Bioprocess Engineering Requirement and/or the Global Sustainability Requirement.

To count toward the BS degree in Biosystems Engineering these courses must be approved as satisfying the requirements of the graduate curriculum in BE.

3. Students in the combined degree program are conditionally accepted to the graduate program until completion of the BS degree requirements.
4. Graduate assistantships cannot be accepted until full graduate status is attained and is contingent on availability of funds in alignment with EEES departmental policies.

#### **B. Graduate Program**

1. The BE program offers thesis and non-thesis options for the MS degree.
  - a. For the thesis option, a student must complete 24 credits of course work plus at least 6 hours of thesis research.
  - b. For the non-thesis option, a student must complete 30 credit hours, 3 hours of which must be a special project (BE 8710). Non-thesis students are not eligible for research or teaching assistantships.
2. Complete information about the MS degree in BE may be found in the BE Graduate Handbook:

Students interested in the combined BS/MS program should consult with their undergraduate advisor as early as possible. An application should be submitted by the end of the junior year, but can be made at any time as long as the program requirements are fulfilled. Application is made via the **GS6BS/MS** form available from the Graduate School web site.