

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) When Applying to either the MS or PhD degree program in Materials Science and Engineering (major code 450) in the Department of Materials Science & Engineering (<http://www.clemson.edu/mse/index.htm>)**

### **Q: How do I apply?**

A: For information on applying to Clemson and for other information, please go to the Graduate School web site: <http://www.grad.clemson.edu/ProspectiveStudents.php> and click on options under Application Information. The institution code for Clemson is 5111. Department code is not required.

### **Q: What are the deadlines for applying to a graduate program in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering?**

A: Our Department's deadlines for our review committee to receive completed applications are: September 30 for January admission and February 1 for August admission. Every attempt is made to finalize the entire selection process at least one month after the completed application is received by our committee. We continue to accept/review applications after the deadlines, but offers of assistantships, especially for international students, decrease significantly.

### **Q: Aside from what the Graduate School Admissions requires as support documents to the application, does the Department of Materials Science and Engineering require additional documents?**

A: Yes. We also require a resume.

### **Q: Where should I send application and support documents?**

A: If submitting hard copies of support documents, please send to the Graduate School Admissions, 209 Martin Hall, Clemson, SC 29634, NOT to the Department of MS&E. All online forms are received by the Graduate School Admissions office.

### **Q: What are my chances for being admitted to the graduate program in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering?**

A: The criteria utilized by the Graduate Standards Committee in making a decision of acceptance or rejection into the Department of Material Science and Engineering is based on a multitude of information that an applicant supplies to the graduate school, for example GPA, letters of recommendation, reputation of an applicant's undergraduate institution, number of research and/or teaching assistantships, to name just a few; it is impossible to assess an individual applicant without a reference to the entire applicant pool. Nonetheless, it is important to note that a preference is giving to those who apply for a PhD degree, rather than for a MS degree.

### **Q: What are my chances for an assistantship?**

A: Once the application is complete, it will be reviewed by the Department of MS&E Graduate Standards Committee before being passed along with their recommendations to the Department Chair for a final decision. If the application is accepted, an offer for a Teaching Assistantship (TA) or a Research Assistantship (RA) will ONLY be made if and when funding is available AND if there is compatible match between applicant's background for filling a TA spot or a RA position. In a typical year, within the pool of accepted applicants, 6% of them are offered a RA, while 20% receive an offer for a TA. Please DO NOT contact our faculty members asking for financial assistance as they do not have enough time to respond to all the emails from students inquiring about graduate school. All faculty have access to the accepted applications, and if interested in possibly offering an assistantship, he/she will contact the applicant directly.

### **Q: If I am accepted to one of your graduate programs but am not offered an assistantship, can I still attend graduate school?**

A: Yes. If no assistantship is offered, an international applicant can still come to Clemson by submitting a Financial Certification (IA50) found at [http://www.grad.clemson.edu/forms/forms\\_prospective.php](http://www.grad.clemson.edu/forms/forms_prospective.php). This form must be submitted before an I20 can be issued. For both domestic and international applicants, there is also the option to request your application be deferred to another semester in hopes that an assistantship will be offered at a later date. An application is good for one year from the original semester start date that is indicated on it. After one year, a new application will have to be submitted, and the process would begin all over again. PLEASE NOTE: Clemson University does not waive tuition, and the cost of attending Clemson (tuition, supplies, fees, living expenses) is about \$36,000 per year.

### **Q: If I have any other questions, whom do I contact?**

A: Please direct your questions in an email to Heather Cox ([hlcox@clemson.edu](mailto:hlcox@clemson.edu)).