

Frequently Asked Questions When Applying to the Graduate Program in the School of Materials Science & Engineering at Clemson University

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>. The institution code for Clemson is 5111. Department code is not required.

Q: **What are the deadlines for applying to a graduate program in your School of MSE?**

A: Our School's deadlines for our review committee to receive completed applications are: September 1 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 final deadline.

Q: **Aside from what the Graduate School Admissions requires as support documents to the application, does the School of MSE require additional documents?**

A: No

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

A: If submitting paper documents, please send to the Graduate School Admissions, 101 Sikes Hall, Clemson, SC 29634, **NOT** to the School of MSE. All online forms are also submitted to the Graduate School.

Q: **What are my chances for being admitted to one of the graduate programs in the School of MSE?**

A: The criteria utilized by the Graduate Standards Committee in making a decision of acceptance or rejection into the School 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. In a typical year, 55% of the applicants are accepted into the School.

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

A: Once the application is complete, it will be reviewed by the School of MS&E Graduate Standards Committee before being passed along with their recommendations to the School Director for a final decision. If the application is accepted, an offer for a Teaching Assistantship (TA) or a Research Assistantship (RA) will be made **ONLY** if and when: funding is available; there is compatible match between applicant's background, and there is a need by the School to fill a TA spot or by a faculty member to fill a position for a RA. 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.

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

A: If no assistantship is offered, an applicant can still come to Clemson by submitting a Financial Aid Form (GSFA form) found at <http://www.grad.clemson.edu/Forms>. 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 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.

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

A: Please direct your questions in an email to Kathy Bolton (boltonk@clemson.edu). Please **DO NOT** contact our faculty members as they do not have enough time to respond to all the emails from students inquiring about graduate school.