

Biomedical Engineering Department

MS Biomedical Engineering – Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to most of your questions (those that are not program-specific) can be found in the SJSU Office of Graduate Studies website at:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/gradstudies/>

and the SJSU Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations website at:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/>

Prospective applicants are also encouraged to visit the California State University Applications FAQs page at:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/faq/Pages/default.aspx>

Please visit these sites first.

Check your application status on MYSJSU frequently.

FAQ	Answer
Applying for Admission	
How do I apply?	Applications are processed through the California State University online system. Please go to the Cal State Apply website (https://www2.calstate.edu/apply) and follow the directions
Further information on “How to apply” is available at these SJSU websites	Domestic applicants: http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/prospective_students/domestic/
	International Applicants: http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/prospective_students/international/
	Domestic applicants:

What are the admission requirements?	<p>Must have completed of a BS degree in engineering or physical science from a regionally accredited university within the United States</p> <p>GPA higher than 3.0 OR GPA higher than 2.5 and GRE General Test scores higher than 315 in the Quantitative and Verbal sections combined, and 3.5 or higher in the Analytical Writing Section</p>
	<p><i>International applicants:</i></p> <p>Completion of the equivalent of a U.S. BS degree in engineering or physical science from a regionally accredited university</p> <p>GPA higher than 3.0 OR GPA higher than 2.5 and GRE general Test scores higher than 315 in the Quantitative and Verbal sections combined, and 3.5 or higher in the Analytical Writing Section</p> <p>Score of 80 or higher in TOEFL (Internet based) OR 6.5 or higher in IELTS, even if your previous institution taught in English.</p>
Do I still need to take the TOEFL or IELTS test if English is the medium of instruction of my current university?	YES.
What if I do not have a BS degree in Biomedical Engineering?	Applicants who do not have a BS Biomedical Engineering will be required to take one or more <i>Transition Courses</i> to ensure that they complete the equivalent of the SJSU BS Biomedical Engineering. (See section on Transition Courses.)
How do I know if my biomedical engineering degree in my country is ABET accredited? If it is, am I still required to take the GRE test?	Check the ABET website (www.abet.org) for a list of the biomedical engineering programs that are accredited. Accreditation of your university by your government and/or a national professional body will also be accepted.
What are the application deadlines?	<p>Spring 2019: To be announced</p> <p>Fall 2019: To be announced</p>
Where do I send my transcripts?	All international transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES) and sent to SJSU directly by WES (https://www.wes.org/).
Can my transcripts be submitted electronically?	
What test scores do I have to submit with my application?	<p><i>Domestic Applicants:</i> GRE scores if GPA is below 3.0</p> <p><i>International Applicants:</i> TOEFL or IELTS AND GRE if GPA IS BELOW 3.0</p>

Do I need to submit official (hard-copy) TOEFL and GRE reports, or the official electronic copies acceptable?	TOEFL and IELTS scores must be submitted directly to the University <by the testing service?>.
Where do I send my letters of reference?	Request those writing letters of reference on your behalf to send them as a PDF attachment to an email directly to Professor Guna Selvaduray (guna.selvaduray@sjsu.edu)
Must they be academic references, or do personal references suffice?	All letters of recommendation must be professional in nature, either from an academic reference (professor at a university who taught you) or a workplace supervisor.
When will I hear back about my application?	All applications are reviewed and evaluated on a rolling basis. Typical length of time for you to hear back is approximately four weeks, once your application is submitted and complete. The actual time may vary depending on the workload of those processing your application. The most common reason for delays is applicants not submitting all the required documents in a timely manner. Check your To Do List on your MYSJSU account frequently and send in the outstanding documents as soon as possible.
Course Work	
How do I know what classes to take?	The MS BME Graduate Coordinator who is also the Adviser for all the graduate students will guide you in your choice of classes, with a priority on completing all your Transition Courses as soon as possible.
When must I complete my Transition Courses	You must complete your Transition Courses before you can begin your MS project or thesis research. Note that many Transition Courses are prerequisites for upper division BME courses at SJSU, and you may not be able to enroll in these core courses until the Transition Courses are completed
Must I complete all my Transition Courses before I can take graduate classes?	Your adviser will guide you in this process. You may take Transition Courses and graduate courses simultaneously if your adviser considers your preparation to be sufficient.
Can Transition Courses count towards the 30 units required for the MS BME degree?	No, they do not count towards the MS BME degree.
Do the grades in my Transition Courses count towards my overall GPA?	Only the upper division Transition Courses (with course numbers between 100 and 199) count towards your overall GPA.
Can I take Open University courses in Biomedical	Yes, you can, on a space available basis and at the discretion of the course instructor who needs to determine that you have sufficient background.

Engineering before I start at SJSU?	
Will Open University courses count towards my degree requirements	They can count towards your degree requirements, up to a maximum of six (6) units and if the Graduate Coordinator approves.
Can I take some of my classes at a community college instead of SJSU?	Yes, lower division (SJSU course numbers of 99 or lower) courses can be taken outside of SJSU. Upper division courses (with course numbers between 100 and 199) cannot be substituted. These courses will not count towards the 30 units required for your MS degree.
If I get a 'C' in a class, do I automatically go on academic probation?	No, you do not. But if this 'C' brings your overall GPA below 3.0, then you do go on probation.
Do I need to retake the class?	No, you do not.
If I go on academic probation and my GPA does not go above 3.0 the next semester, do I get kicked out of the program?	For every semester that you are on probation, your semester GPA must be above 3.0. If it is not in the subsequent semester then you will be disqualified from the university.
Can I take biomedical engineering-related courses from other departments at SJSU (e.g. ME or EE)?	Yes, you may, but only with the approval of the MS BME adviser, who will first make sure that your breadth in biomedical engineering is not sacrificed.
I am enrolled, but MYSJSU says I have an advising hold. How do I get this hold removed?	This means you have not filled out and submitted your advising form to your adviser for approval. You need to do this first before your advising hold is removed.
How long does the master's program take to complete?	This depends on the number of courses you successfully complete every semester and also on the number of Transition Courses you are required to complete. Most students take 2.5 to 3 years to complete their degree.
Is it possible to complete the degree earlier (as a full-time student)?	Yes, that is possible, if all the degree requirements are met satisfactorily.
Is there a cap on the number of semesters needed to graduate	No.

How many students are in the SJSU Biomedical Engineering master's program?	Approximately 100.
How many are accepted each year?	In a typical year we receive close to 100 applications, approximately 60 are accepted into the program, and 40 or so students actually enroll in the program.
What kind of visa is required to enroll in SJSU?	As an international student you will be on a F-1 visa. Contact the International Student and Scholar Services office regarding your immigration status. (http://www.sjsu.edu/iss/)
Financial Information	
How much does the master's program cost?	This depends on the number of semesters it takes to complete the program requirements and the number of classes taken each semester.
When is the deadline to register for classes and pay tuition?	This specific answer to this question depends on the semester. Please check the Bursar's Office website (http://www.sjsu.edu/bursar/) You are encouraged to register for classes as early as possible. Many classes fill up very fast , and those registering late may not be allowed in. Do not wait till the last minute.
Is financial aid available? Scholarships? How do I find more information on how/where to apply?	Please consult the Financial Aids Office (http://www.sjsu.edu/faso/) for further information. The Biomedical Engineering Department does not offer scholarships.
How do I apply as teaching assistant and are there jobs available on campus or paid research position with professors?	There are a limited number of course grader positions available to students each semester. The number and availability of these positions depends on the number of courses being offered and the enrollment in the classes. Consult the Department Chair. Paid research positions may be available for individual professors. Please contact each professor regarding their research assistant needs and any funding that may be available. For other paid campus jobs, please visit the Career Center (http://www.sjsu.edu/careercenter/) and find out what positions are being advertised.
Research Requirements	
Do graduate students get paid to do research?	In general, if a graduate student is earning academic credit, then there is no payment.
Is research required for the master's program, or can I just take classes?	Yes, research is required as an integral part of the MS Project or Thesis which is required. The SJSU MS BME degree is not a coursework-only MS program.

Since I am already working for a medical device company, can I apply my work projects towards the master's degree research requirements?	In short, yes, you can work on a project sponsored by your company. However, you must still have a SJSU BME department adviser who will ensure that the scope and contents are of a quality that will be acceptable to the university.
How do I find a research project to work on?	Make an appointment with each BME faculty member, find out what their current or future research plan(s) are, and if there is a fit between your capabilities and their needs.