

FAQ for Prospective and Newly Admitted Graduate Students

1. **Question:** I am an undergraduate student in Ceramic Engineering or Metallurgical Engineering program of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE). I am keen on applying for a master's. Will the 5000-level courses count as coursework credit towards my master's degree?

Response: There is an opportunity—the Grad Track Pathway (GTP) program—for our Ceramic Engineering and Metallurgical Engineering junior and senior undergraduate students who may be considering graduate studies in the future.

The GTP program provides a pathway for such students to obtain early provisional admission to our master's program. The program gives the students a head start by allowing them to earn 9 hours of coursework credit towards their master's degree while still pursuing their bachelor's. The application process is straightforward; and all relevant details, including the admission criteria and “how to apply”, can be found here: <https://mse.mst.edu/academic-programs/grad-track-pathway/>

2. **Question:** I am interested in pursuing a master's or PhD in Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, or Materials Science and Engineering within MSE. Is it possible to have my application fee waived?

Response: Thank you for considering the MSE graduate programs at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Currently, we do not offer direct fee waivers for applications. However, we do provide application fee waivers for those who attend specific events. Please monitor your email and our graduate events website for upcoming events that might offer such waivers: [Missouri S&T Graduate Events](#).

3. **Question:** I am keen on applying for a master's or PhD in Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, or Materials Science and Engineering within MSE. Is the GRE exam a requirement for my application?

Response: The GRE is not mandatory for these programs. If you wish to have the GRE requirement waived, please reach out to MSE's Associate Chair for Research, Dr. Aditya Kumar, at kumarad@mst.edu.

4. **Question:** I have decided to apply for graduate studies in Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, or Materials Science and Engineering and have a specific research area in mind. How can I identify and connect with MSE faculty who specialize in this area?

Response: You can explore the research interests and areas of expertise of our faculty members [here](#). Once you identify faculty members whose work aligns with your interests, we recommend reaching out to them via email. Attach your CV and express your interest in joining their research group.

5. **Question:** Where can I access details on graduate admission requirements, funding opportunities, and application deadlines?

Response: You can find comprehensive information on graduate admission requirements, funding opportunities, priority application deadlines, and the application link [here](#). If you need

additional assistance or have further queries, please contact the Graduate and International Admissions team or your assigned admissions counselor.

6. Question: Can the enrollment deposit be waived?

Response: We recommend making the enrollment deposit payment as soon as possible, as you will need to pay the enrollment deposit before the International Enrollment team can proceed with processing your documents. This fee lets us know that you do intend to enroll in your chosen semester and are actively working on your application materials. It is nonrefundable but when you enroll, it will be credited to your student account.

5. Question: I have been admitted into the MS program, but my offer letter indicates no funding. Are there any funding or scholarship opportunities I can pursue?

Response: We understand the importance of financial support in your academic journey, and we truly appreciate your interest in our MSE program. While your current offer letter doesn't include financial support or scholarships, this doesn't mean opportunities are entirely closed. All MSE faculty members have reviewed your application, and as of now, none have positions available for a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA). However, we strongly suggest reaching out directly to faculty members aligned with your research interests. Should a faculty member decide to sponsor you as a GRA in the future, this would entail a stipend and a tuition waiver. To identify potential faculty mentors, we recommend familiarizing yourself with the research interests and publications of our faculty. This information is available on our website: [MSE Faculty and Staff Directory](#).

6. Question: I have been admitted into the PhD program, but my offer letter indicates no funding. Are there any funding or scholarship opportunities I can pursue?

Response: We understand the importance of financial support in your academic journey, and we truly appreciate your interest in our MSE program. While your current offer letter doesn't include financial support or scholarships, this doesn't mean opportunities are entirely closed. All MSE faculty members have reviewed your application, and as of now, none have positions available for a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA). However, we strongly suggest reaching out directly to faculty members aligned with your research interests. Should a faculty member decide to sponsor you as a GRA in the future, this would entail a stipend and a tuition waiver. To identify potential faculty mentors, we recommend familiarizing yourself with the research interests and publications of our faculty. This information is available on our website: [MSE Faculty and Staff Directory](#).

7. Question: I am a non-thesis MS student in MSE. If I decide to switch to thesis MS, is funding guaranteed?

Response: While we suggest reaching out directly to faculty members—aligned with your research interests—to seek funding, please note that funding is not guaranteed and students should not presume funding to become available in the future. Openings for GRAs are limited and MSE faculty members are highly selective when it comes to recruiting GRAs in their research groups. Therefore, while there is a finite chance of securing funding after switching to MS, it should not be taken as a given.

- 8. Question:** Are non-funded master's and PhD students guaranteed to secure funding after they arrive on campus?
- Response:** While we suggest reaching out directly to faculty members—aligned with your research interests—to seek funding, please note that funding is not guaranteed and students should not presume funding to become available in the future. Openings for GRAs are limited and MSE faculty members are highly selective when it comes to recruiting GRAs in their research groups. Therefore, while there is a finite chance of securing funding after arriving on campus, it should not be taken as a given.
- 9. Question:** I have been admitted into the non-thesis MS program. Where can I find information on tuition and fees?
- Response:** Information on tuition and fees for studying at Missouri S&T can be found here: <https://futurestudents.mst.edu/costs/>. If you have any further questions, please reach out to the [Graduate and International Admissions team](#) or your admissions counselor.
- 10. Question:** I need help to set up my Joe'SS account.
- Response:** For help with your Joe'SS account, please first review the instructions here: <https://futurestudents.mst.edu/admissions/joess/>. If you still require assistance, please contact the IT help desk [here](#) using their online chat or email.
- 11. Question:** Where can I access the degree program requirements, such as required credit hours, number of 5000-level courses, mandatory courses, etc., for MS or PhD in Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, or Materials Science and Engineering?
- Response:** Detailed degree program requirements for both master's (thesis and non-thesis) and PhD programs in Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, or Materials Science and Engineering are available [here](#). Visit our [Academic Programs page](#) for comprehensive information.
- 12. Question:** Why was my application to the MS or PhD program of Ceramic Engineering or Metallurgical Engineering or Materials Science and Engineering declined?
- Response:** We appreciate your interest in joining our Department of Materials Science and Engineering as a graduate student. Each year, we receive a large number of applications from many highly qualified candidates. However, due to limited funding and resources, we can only offer admission to a select few. Additionally, it is crucial that an applicant's research interests align with the expertise of our MSE faculty and the needs of our funded projects. If your application was not successful, it might be due to these constraints rather than a reflection of your qualifications or potential.
- 13. Question:** I was declined admission into one program (MS or PhD) of Ceramic Engineering or Metallurgical Engineering or Materials Science and Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Will I have a greater chance of being admitted if I switch to a different program (e.g., from PhD to MS) or discipline (e.g., from Ceramic Engineering to Metallurgical Engineering)?

Response: No, switching programs or disciplines does not inherently increase your chances of admission. Our decision to decline an application is not based on the specific program or discipline to which you applied, but rather on a comprehensive evaluation of several factors. Due to the competitive nature of our programs and limited funding, we can only offer admission to a limited number of applicants. Additionally, it is essential that your research interests align with the expertise of our MSE faculty and the needs of our funded projects. If your application was not successful, it likely reflects these limitations and constraints rather than a shortcoming in your qualifications or potential. We encourage applicants to choose the program or discipline that best matches their academic and research interests.