Admission Overview

Overview

The Graduate Admissions Committees are seeking well-rounded, highly motivated students who have demonstrated records of academic excellence and an aptitude for research. An applicant must have a baccalaureate degree from a recognized college or university. While this degree will usually be in the field of engineering, students with degrees in physics, chemistry or mathematics are also encouraged to apply. In some cases, undergraduate courses will be required to fill any gaps in a candidate’s preparation for a graduate engineering program. Those courses can usually be taken concurrent with graduate engineering courses, but will not count toward the graduate degree.

Each candidate must complete the on-line Application for Admission. The application requires completion of one or more essays, transcripts of all post-high school academic work and three letters of recommendation. All applicants are required to take the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) general exam and have official scores sent to ETS Institution Code 5836. No subject exams are required. A non-refundable application fee of $60 may be paid by credit card, check or money order, and must be received before an application can be processed.

Deadlines

For on-grounds masters and Ph.D. programs, the deadline for receipt of complete applications is 1 month prior to the beginning of a term for U.S. citizens and permanent residents, and 5 months prior to the beginning of a term for international students, whether or not they are currently in the U.S. The additional time is required for the International Student Office review and processing of immigration documents.

For off-ground masters programs, please visit their web site for information about deadlines.

Applicants who are applying for financial aid should apply by January 15 for admission in the Fall term.

Requirements

Transcripts and Test Scores

Candidates may upload unofficial transcripts in Excel, Word or pdf formats. Unofficial transcripts are used to begin the review process but offers of admission are not binding until official transcripts are received and verified. Similarly, applicants are asked to input their unofficial GRE scores but official GRE scores must be received prior to admission. GRE and TOEFL test scores should be sent to Institution Code 5836. Official transcripts must be sealed in envelopes by the Institution Registrar and should be mailed directly to:

Graduate Studies Office
P.O. Box 400242
Thornton Hall A-108
351 McCormick Road
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4292

English Language

The School of Engineering and Applied Science welcomes applications from men and women from other countries. We currently enroll students from 67 different countries who enrich our academic community. All
non-native English speakers must have an outstanding command of the English language. The TOEFL or IELTS exam is required of all applicants whose native or first learned language is not English. Most students who are admitted score higher than 600 on the TOEFL paper test, 250 on the TOEFL CBT, or band 7.0 on IELTS. In some cases, candidates are required to attend a Summer English for Academic Purposes Program prior to beginning their graduate program, if their English speaking ability requires additional support.

Virginia In-State Tuition Privileges

Applicants who claim Virginia as their domicile for tuition purposes must complete and submit an Application for Virginia In-State Educational Privileges. Student will be assumed to be non-Virginia residents and out-of-state tuition will be charged until the form is received and reviewed. This form can be downloaded from the main admissions page.

Admission Process and Timeline

All applications for graduate programs in Engineering and all supplemental documents (transcripts, letters, test scores, etc.) are received by the Graduate Studies Office. Application records are maintained in this office and copies are forwarded to the appropriate graduate program director. Admissions committees within the programs review applications and make a recommendation to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. Recommendations for admission of international students are also reviewed by the International Student Office. The final decision to offer admission is made by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, taking into consideration the application, transcripts, letters, test scores and the recommendation of the Admissions Committee.

Although we admit students for all terms, most students are admitted in the Fall term. Admissions Committees review each candidate's academic qualifications as well as the potential match between the candidate’s research interest and that of a faculty member. Admission Committees review applications received by January 15 for admission in the Fall term and award financial aid for the next academic year. However, there are usually a few openings in the Spring or Summer terms as current students graduate. The timeline for admission and financial aid varies by program, but financial aid may be unobtainable if the application is not submitted by January 15.

Note for International Students: Applications from international students must be reviewed by the International Student Office before an offer of admission can be made. All official transcripts, test scores and the Financial Guarantee Form must be received prior to that review.

Financial Aid

Most financial support is provided through assistantships and fellowships ordinarily consisting of a stipend and payment of all tuition and fees including health insurance. Most outstanding students who are enrolled in a research degree (masters with thesis or Ph.D.) can expect to receive aid of some kind for up to five years, though support will vary by department and funding source. Students must be nominated by their program graduate director to be considered for a fellowship or assistantship, and they must be registered as full-time graduate students during the period of the award. Graduate students are granted financial aid support so they may concentrate completely on their studies. Students receiving financial support are generally not allowed to have other employment. These awards are not made on the basis of family financial need, therefore applicants for these awards do not have to complete the FAFSA.

Research assistants are supported by research projects within the program and work directly for the principal investigator of the project. The majority of graduate students are supported partially or completely by research assistantships. Funds are provided by an external agency, faculty research grants or by the University.

Teaching assistants assist the instructor of a course with tasks such as grading and conducting problem sessions. Teaching assistantships provide valuable experience for students who believe they will seek an academic career after graduation, and for students preparing for the comprehensive exam. Students whose native language is not English must score 55 or better on the SPEAK test in order to be considered for a teaching assistantship.
Fellowships are available for superior students. Students with fellowships have more freedom to choose their advisor and research topics and such awards give the student added prestige and flexibility. Partial fellowships are also awarded to supplement research and teaching assistantship stipends.

Students are encouraged to seek fellowships from national, international, industrial or foundation sources for which they may be eligible. Outside sponsors have included organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and numerous corporations. Information may be obtained from the United States Information Service or Fulbright offices abroad, and from such references as the Annual Register of Grant Support and The Grants register found in many libraries and on the web. Notification of external awards should be included with your application or sent when the award is announced. The University of Virginia reserves the right to adjust its awards to students who receive external grants.

The University of Virginia is a member of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. While attending one of the member universities for graduate study leading to a master’s degree in engineering, a minority student accepted into the GEM program will receive a stipend of $6,000 plus full tuition and fees. The School of Engineering and Applied Science will supplement the stipend to equal, at a minimum, the total of fellowships normally received by entering students.

Information about other types of financial assistance (Stafford Loans, etc.) may be obtained from University Financial Aid Office.