

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF BIOENGINEERING

Program Learning Outcomes for the MS and PhD Degrees in the field of Bioengineering

Upon completing the MS and PhD degrees in the field of Bioengineering, students will be able to:

1. Acquire a graduate-level understanding of foundations in Bioengineering and apply this material across a variety of sub-disciplines.
2. Integrate knowledge from different sources to solve a defined Bioengineering problem.
3. Acquire deep knowledge in a sub-discipline in which they will pursue their thesis.
4. Demonstrate professional skills in both oral and written communication.

Requirements for the MS and PhD Degrees in the field of Bioengineering

MS Degree Program

The MS degree is a thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see [Thesis Master's Degrees \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students pursuing the MS degree in the field of Bioengineering must complete:

- A minimum of 30 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 18 credit hours from foundation, supporting, and advanced coursework. MS students must earn additional credit hours they need for graduation by registering for the research course BIOE 500 during the terms in which they are engaged in research.
- A minimum program GPA of 3.00.

In addition, students must:

- Show evidence on their undergraduate transcript of completion of a class in systems physiology, cell (or physical) biology, and statistics. (If courses were not taken for an undergraduate degree, they must be completed at the beginning of the MS degree program.)
- Fulfill a teaching requirement.
- Submit an original research thesis.
- Defend the thesis in a public oral examination.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Total Credit Hours for the MS Degree in the field of Bioengineering	30

Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Bioengineering

PhD Degree Program

For general university requirements, please see [Doctoral Degrees \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Bioengineering must complete:

- A minimum of 90 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours from foundation, supporting, and advanced coursework with high standing. In addition to foundation, PhD students must earn additional credit hours they need for graduation by registering for the PhD research course, BIOE 500, during the terms in which they are engaged in research.
- A minimum program GPA of 3.20.

In addition, students must:

- Show evidence on their undergraduate transcript of completion of a class in systems physiology, cell (or physical) biology, and statistics. (If courses were not taken for an undergraduate degree, they must be completed at the beginning of the PhD degree program.)
- Complete 9 credit hours of Bioengineering foundations coursework.
- Students are required to serve as a teaching assistant in up to three undergraduate or graduate courses.
- Submit a thesis proposal. PhD students must submit and successfully defend their thesis proposals by the end of their fourth semester in residence.
- Submit a thesis that provides evidence of their ability to carry out original research in a specialized area of bioengineering.
- Defend the thesis in a public oral examination.

Graduate students take required courses and electives in the following areas:

- Biomaterials
- Biomedical Imaging
- Instrumentation
- Mechanobiology and Biophysics
- Microfabrication
- Microfluidics and Design
- Optics and Diagnostics
- Quantitative, Computational and Theoretical Bioengineering
- Synthetic Biology and Genome Engineering
- Tissue Engineering

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Bioengineering	90

Policies for the PhD Degree in the field of Bioengineering

Department of Bioengineering Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the department of Bioengineering publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2021_22/Bioengineering_Graduate_Handbook.pdf

Admissions

The application deadline for PhD students for fall admission of the following year is December 20. Applicants should request transcripts at least two months in advance to give senders time to get the material to Rice University by the deadline. For international students, the TOEFL exam scores should be sent at least three months before this deadline. PhD students are not admitted in the spring semester. Application materials received after the deadline will not be considered. Once admitted, departmental policy requires full-time PhD students to be registered for at least 12 credit hours each semester.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Bioengineering should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director on an individual case-by-case basis.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Bioengineering website: <https://bioengineering.rice.edu/>

Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Bioengineering

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