

IDP+ (Integrated Degree Program Plus) – Accelerated BS/Master’s Program
FOR STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Students with strong scholarly and/or research interests may apply for admission to a combined bachelor’s and master’s degree program to begin their graduate program during senior year of undergraduate study. This plan allows for flexibility in the scheduling and completion of upper division undergraduate requirements while concurrently fulfilling graduate course requirements for the Master of Engineering (ME) or Master of Science (MS) degree in the department. Students who are accepted into this program have the **GRE requirement waived** and are allowed to apply credits of 500-level course work toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Before applying to this program, interested students should review the **ECE Graduate Student Handbook**.

To apply, students must be enrolled in the bachelor’s degree program in Electrical and Computer Engineering and have:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher
- Grades of B or better in ECE311, ECE331 and ECE341 (electrical engineering concentration)
- Grades of B or better in ECE311, ECE331 and ECE451 (computer engineering concentration)
- Completed 75 credits of course work towards the undergraduate degree
- Students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA to remain in the program and may elect out of the accelerated program at any time without affecting undergraduate status.

Graduate Level Course Work

During the senior year of undergraduate study in Electrical and Computer Engineering, IDP+ students may take graduate level classes that can count toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. They may select from electrical and computer engineering senior technical electives and related courses in science and mathematics approved by the ECE Department. For courses to count towards both the undergraduate and graduate degrees, they must be:

- Regular credit courses (no independent study)
- 500- level
- Passed with a grade of B or higher
- Students can double count between 5-9 credits, depending on the total credits required in their concentration. Students in the electrical engineering concentration can double-count up to 9 credits; students in the lasers and options concentrations can double-count 5-7 credits; students in the computer engineering concentration can double-count up to 9 credits. Undergraduate and graduate advisors will advise on the specific double count totals possible for each applicant.

The BS degree will be awarded upon completion of undergraduate requirements and the ME or MS degree will be awarded upon completion of all graduate requirements.

Application Process

1. Go to the graduate school application and follow the prompts.
2. <https://gradadmissions.colostate.edu/apply/>

3. Choose “First Time Users”, and on the Program page where you select your desired program, click the box at the bottom of the page to **choose Integrated Degree Program Plus (IDP+)**.
4. You will be prompted to supply your resume, a statement of purpose and the names and contact information of the three professors who have agreed to write your letters of recommendation. You will NOT have to provide your transcripts, since they are already in the CSU system.
5. IDP+ candidates *apply* during the fall semester of the senior year, for graduate school *admission* the following spring. In some rare situations, students may apply in their junior year when they have very few credits remaining toward their BS degree. Applicants should submit all materials by July 15 for admission during the fall semester, and by November 15 for admission during the spring semester.

Important Financial Considerations

Once IDP+ students are admitted to the Graduate School, **their status changes from an undergraduate student to graduate student, and tuition and fees increase.** Full time status is achieved with 9 credit hours instead of 12. It is up to the student to determine the best course of action in terms of finances. **It is also important to note that students receiving undergraduate scholarships from the University and/or outside sources would lose scholarship funds once accepted into a graduate program because of your change in status from an undergraduate to a graduate student.** To offset these financial limitations, many IDP+ students finish their graduate degrees one semester early.

Admissions Process

Applications are first reviewed by the department, and should the student qualify for IDP+, the application is forwarded to the Graduate School for final evaluation. Students who are admitted to the IDP+ program receive notification from the Graduate School with an email and a letter in the mail.

After Admission

During the first week of the semester, IDP+ students should schedule meetings with the departmental graduate advisor for required paperwork.

Within the first 30 days of the semester, students are required to submit an Exclusion Form with their graduation contract for the bachelor of science degree- they do this by meeting with their undergraduate advisor. Within this same period, they are required to submit a Program of Study (GS6) form for the Graduate Degree, assisted by the departmental graduate advisor. To complete the GS6 form, the student selects a graduate committee that includes a faculty advisor, an additional Electrical and Computer Engineering faculty member, and a faculty member from outside the Electrical and Computer Engineering department.

Students pursuing the MS Plan A degree (thesis) should have a commitment from an electrical and computer engineering faculty member to serve as their faculty advisor. It is in the student’s best interest to begin planning to get commitments from faculty in the final semester of the junior year and to have the faculty selections made by the first semester of the senior year.

Time Line

JUNIOR YEAR – SECOND SEMESTER

Determine the degree you plan to pursue:

1. ME Master of Engineering (coursework only; no research/thesis; broad-based with no specific area of concentration or study)
2. MS Master of Science – Plan A option- research with thesis; or, Plan B option- coursework only; or Plan B option with Project

ME Option

Meet with an ECE academic advisor for program details. Choose credit hours of 500-level courses to take in the fall and/or spring semesters of the senior year to count towards both degrees.

MS Option Plan A or Plan B

Meet with an ECE academic advisor for program details.

Determine research area (if selecting research).

Get commitment from a faculty member to serve as your advisor (if selecting the MS Plan A option).

Choose credit hours of 500-level courses to take in the fall and/or spring semesters of the senior year to count towards both degrees.

SENIOR YEAR- FIRST SEMESTER/FALL SEMESTER

- Complete all tasks above in early November
- Complete online CSU Graduate Application for spring admission to Graduate School.

SENIOR YEAR- SECOND SEMESTER

If you are admitted to the program, this will be your first semester in graduate school under the higher graduate tuition and fee schedule. You are now considered a graduate student by the University and CSU's Graduate School, and no longer hold undergraduate status, even though you are completing undergraduate credits.

ME Option

- Meet with undergraduate advisor in ECE to complete your BS graduation contract and exclusion form to indicate the courses that will be used for both degrees.
- Meet with graduate advisor in ECE for guidance in filling out the Plan of Study Form (GS6).
- Complete the online GS6 form on Ram Web, print and submit to ECE graduate advisor.

MS Option

- If MS Plan A, meet with faculty advisor to discuss your course selections for Plan of Study. Confirm members of your graduate committee.
- Meet with undergraduate advisor to complete your BS graduation contract and exclusion form to indicate the courses that will be used for both degrees.

- Meet with graduate advisor for instructions on the required Plan of Study Form (GS6).
- Complete the online GS6 form on Ram Web, print, sign, obtain faculty advisor signature, and submit to ECE graduate advisor.

This policy was updated in September 2018.