Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Frequently Asked Questions about Admissions

Q: What is the deadline to apply?

A: DECEMBER 15, 2015 for fall admissions. We only accept admissions in the fall quarter.

Q: What does a complete application include?

A: On line application (https://gradapply.ucsd.edu)
- 3 Letters of Recommendation (more is OK but not necessary)
- Transcripts from all institutions attended since high school
- General GRE Score (you may self report)
- TOEFL, IELTS or PTE Score (required for all international students)

All materials must be submitted on-line. Do not send hard copies or resumes to the department. Once admitted, the Graduate Admissions Office will list any documentation/information still needed in the Application Status page of Gradapply.

OFFICIAL HARDCOPY DOCUMENTS ARE NOT NEEDED UNTIL YOU ARE ADMITTED INTO THE PROGRAM. We accept on line test scores and transcripts until then.

Q: Can I submit my test scores/letters of recommendation after the application deadline?

Yes. This is a common practice since the timing of the exams does not always coincide with our deadlines. You can log back into your application and self-report your scores if you know them before the official scores arrive. Your file will not be reviewed until you have included these in the online application.

Q: What are the UCSD Institution and Department Codes for the GRE and TOEFL exam scores?

A: The Institution Code is 4836. The Department Code is no longer necessary.

Q: What is the minimum/average GRE score?

A: There is no minimum GRE score set by the Department or University. However, our faculty look highly upon the quantitative score for the GRE. Most of our admitted students have close to an 800 in that section. We, in general, do not admit students below a 700 in that section, 1100 overall.

With the new GRE scoring, we are looking for a range in the quantitative area of 165-170.

Q: What is the minimum TOEFL score?

A: The following are the University issued minimum TOEFL scores (they vary upon type of TOEFL test taken):
      PBT (Paper-Based Test) 550
      CBT (Computer-Based Test) 213
      IBT (Internet-Based Test) 80

Q. What is the minimum IELTS score?

A. IELTS Band 7

Q: Where can I find out more information about the GRE and TOEFL?

A: This test is not affiliated with the University of California, San Diego. Please visit the Education Testing Services website for complete, detailed information about each exam.

Q: When is the TOEFL waived?

A: The TOEFL is required of all international students. The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:
• If the student is a permanent resident.
• If the student has already been awarded a degree from a US institution of higher education.

Q: What if my undergraduate degree is not in engineering?

A: It is not a requirement to have an undergraduate engineering degree. Some of our students have degrees in math or physics. We do, however, require that you have the knowledge base in math and physics that an undergraduate institution would give you.

Q: Can I contact faculty about research opportunities?

    A: Yes, you may contact faculty directly to ask any specific engineering questions, or to inquire about research opportunities. Please be aware that faculty are very busy and may take quite some time to return your emails and phone calls.

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Please reference our faculty list at:
http://maeweb.ucsd.edu/faculty
And
http://mae.ucsd.edu/researchfields
This list will aid in finding faculty currently working in specific areas of study.

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Q: How can I check the status of my application?

    A: Log into your application at https://gradapply.ucsd.edu. Your Application Status page will show updates as soon as they are posted. If you are missing any part of your application, you will be contacted. If you think your submission didn't go through or you are having computer problems, please email gradadmissions@ucsd.edu.

Q: What is the timeline to hear a result?

    A: The review of applications will begin in January. Financial award packages will go out to the top PhD candidates approximately February 15. We will continue to make admission offers until the end of April. MS students typically will be admitted between March and June.

Q: Is financial aid/funding available?

    A. Top PhD students are typically funded on scholarship, TAship, or Graduate Student Researchship. The typical monthly salary is $ 2,000.00 plus payment of tuition and fees. Top PhD fellowship recipients can see a monthly stipend up to $2,500/month.

    MS students are not funded by the department. Most MS students seek employment on campus as a TA or tutor.

Q. Can you send me a brochure or literature on the program?

   A. All our information is on the web site: **maeweb.ucsd.edu** or the Jacobs School of Engineering site **http://www.jacobsschool.ucsd.edu**. We no longer print materials.

Q: Can you review my academic record to see if I am eligible for graduate admissions?

   A. Due to the high volume of inquiries into our graduate program, we are not able to respond to each email or assess your individual qualifications for our programs. All pertinent information is on the website at maeweb.ucsd.edu. We encourage everyone to apply. Admissions is based on the overall file and not on one individual score or grade point average.

Q. What is your contact information?

   A. Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
      Graduate Admissions, 0411
      UC San Diego
      9500 Gilman Drive
      La Jolla, CA 92093-0411

      mae-gradadm-l (email)