

Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Graduate Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the deadline to apply?

A: DECEMBER 15, 2016 for fall admissions. We only accept applications in the Fall Quarter.

Q: What does a complete application include?

A: Online 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)
- Statement of Purpose
- Curriculum Vitae

All materials must be submitted online. Do not send hard copies of any of your materials to the Department. Once admitted, the UC San Diego 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 online test scores and transcripts until then.

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

Yes. You can log back into your application and self-report your scores if you know them before the official scores arrive. However, be aware that 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 University. However, our faculty look highly upon the quantitative score for the GRE. Most of our admitted students have a score between 165 and 170 in the quantitative section. We rarely admit applicants with a quantitative score below 160

Q: What is the minimum/average GPA?

A: The University *requires* a minimum GPA of 3.0 or above (or equivalent). Most of our admitted students have a GPA in the range of 3.5 – 4.0. We rarely admit applicants with a GPA below 3.2.

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.

Please reference our faculty list at: <http://maeweb.ucsd.edu/faculty>

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 or, in some cases, May. 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 reader. However, these positions are *extremely limited and very competitive*.

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
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