Five Year BS/MS Program – FAQ

*Please note that the questions below and many others will be answered in the ME Townhall Meeting. The date and time of the meeting will be announced in September.

How is this program different from the "Standard" M.S. program?  
I don't quite meet the GPA requirement of 3.5. Will exceptional applicants be considered with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.5?  
I don't have any research experience. How important is this for my application?  
When are participants admitted?  
I'd like to take some time off between completing my bachelor's degree and starting the master's degree. Is this possible?  
I recently graduated from ME with my B.A./B.S.. Can I apply for this program?  
Can 5th Year Students Receive Assistantship Support?  
Are there additional requirement to graduate?  
Is this program well suited for someone who eventually wants a Ph.D.?  
I am considering applying to the Five Year Bachelor/Master Program, but I may also apply for a Ph.D. program at other schools and Berkeley as well. If I am accepted into the Five Year Program, how will that affect my potential Ph.D. application?  
Am I allowed to apply into this program and, if not admitted, apply into the regular M.S./Ph.D. program later?  
I am studying abroad as an exchange student and won't be able to attend the face-to-fact interview process if selected.  
My scheduled graduation date is in Fall semester and not the regular Spring semester, when should I apply for the ME Five Year Bachelor/Master Program?  
What are the M.S. degree requirements?

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How is this program different from the "Standard" M.S. program?  
The combined Bachelors/Masters program encourages an interdisciplinary focus, with concentrations in ME and allied fields like the sciences, other engineering, or business, law, or public policy. The program is structured to develop future leaders in industry, exhibiting interdisciplinary technical skills as well as a broader understanding of the business, legal, and social context of technology development and use.

I don't quite meet the GPA requirement of 3.5. Will exceptional applicants be considered with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.5?  
A GPA of 3.5 is strongly recommended. Please be advised that admission for this program is highly selective.

I don't have any research experience. How important is this for my application?  
The program is a course-based program, therefore no research experience is necessary.

When are participants admitted?  
TBA
I'd like to take some time off between completing my bachelor's degree and starting the master's degree. Is this possible?

No. This program will not accommodate leaves of absence. Admitted students are expected to transition immediately from the undergrad program to the grad program in order to complete the entire program in five consecutive years. You are encouraged to apply to the regular graduate program.

I recently graduated from ME with my B.A./B.S.. Can I apply for this program?

Applications will not be accepted from students who are not currently enrolled in our undergraduate degree program. These students are encouraged to apply to the regular graduate program.

Can 5th Year Students Receive Assistantship Support?

Students in the 5th Year MS program are not eligible for GSI appointments in the ME department. Completing the requirements for the M.S. degree in two semesters will be very challenging and time consuming (unless the student can transfer units from the final semester of his or her undergraduate study that were not counted toward his or her Bachelor degree requirement), and the student will not have time to commit to teaching. However, as an alternative, 5th Year MS students are eligible for Reader appointments in the ME department.

Are there additional requirements to graduate?

Students pass an oral comprehensive exam before a M.S. degree can be granted.

Is this program well suited for someone who eventually wants a Ph.D.?

This program is not intended for students who want a Ph.D. It is intended as a terminal M.S. degree.

I am considering applying to the Five Year Bachelor/Master Program, but I may also apply for a Ph.D. program at other schools and Berkeley as well. If I am accepted into the Five Year Program, how will that affect my potential Ph.D. application?

Acceptance to the ME Five Year Bachelor/Master Program, will neither positively nor negatively affect your application to Berkeley’s M.S./Ph.D. or Ph.D. program. However, please be advised that applicants may only apply to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission term.

NOTE: Once admitted to the 5th year program, students may change his or her degree goal from M.S. to Ph.D. by applying to the department during or after their M.S. studies with all required materials, including a statement of purpose, 3 recommendation letters, GRE scores and an official transcript. However, if the student is truly interested in a Ph.D., he or she should apply to the Ph.D. program directly through the existing processes.

Am I allowed to apply to the 5th year program and, if not admitted, apply into the regular M.S./Ph.D. program later?

No.

I am studying abroad as an exchange student and won't be able to attend the face-to-fact interview process if selected.

We will arrange a phone interview in this case, if needed.

My scheduled graduation date is in Fall semester and not the regular Spring semester, when should I apply for the ME Five Year Bachelor/Master Program?
The ME department does not admit new students in Spring semester. Therefore, you need to apply in the Fall semester one year before your graduation. If admitted, you can petition to defer your enrollment as a MS student for one semester so there is no gap between your Bachelor/Master studies.

**What are MS degree requirements?**
Please visit our [Required Materials](#) page.