

Graduate Student Handbook

MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND
MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT
(2025-2026)



Graduate Student Services
2205E Therkildsen IE Building
<http://www.imse.iastate.edu>

Welcome to the Master of Engineering Programs in Systems Engineering and Engineering Management at Iowa State University! This student handbook will provide you with general guidelines regarding policies and procedures related to the programs. Please note that the Graduate College Handbook provides more detailed information on the graduate program policies. If for any reason there are inconsistencies between the Graduate College Handbook and this handbook, policies and procedures described in the Graduate College Handbook take precedence. We advise you to review the Graduate College Handbook at <https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/handbook/>.

The Master of Engineering degree programs in Systems Engineering and Engineering Management are managed through the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems (IMSE) at Iowa State University (ISU). Information on the department and degree programs is located at:

<https://www.imse.iastate.edu>

Please review this handbook periodically for any updates. We look forward to working with you and wish you the best of success in your studies.

**IMSE Graduate Programs Office
2205E Therkildsen IE Building
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Student Handbook for
Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering
and
Master of Engineering in Engineering Management

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. WHAT ARE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT?

The systems we are designing today are more complex than ever. Engineers with specialized skills in systems engineering and/or engineering management are called on to help deal with the challenges of managing these complex systems.

The International Council of Systems Engineering (INCOSE) defines systems engineering as follows:

“Systems Engineering is an engineering discipline whose responsibility is creating and executing an interdisciplinary process to ensure that the customer’s and stakeholder’s needs are satisfied in a high quality, trustworthy, cost efficient and schedule-compliant manner throughout a system’s entire life cycle.”

The American Society for Engineering Management (ASEM) defines engineering management as follows:

“Engineering Management (EM) bridges the gap between engineering and management. EM is the art and science of planning, organizing, allocating resources, and directing and controlling activities that have a technological component.”

1.2.SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AT ISU

The Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering Program and the Master of Engineering in Engineering Management Program are designed to enable engineers, regardless of undergraduate discipline, to develop the analytical abilities needed to design and manage complex systems. The intent of these programs is to extend the ability of engineers to work across disciplinary boundaries and to develop their management and leadership capabilities for today's work environment.

Iowa State University offers several options in bringing these degree programs to you, so that you can fulfill your professional obligations and enhance your educational credentials. Delivery options include both online and on-campus courses.

2. ADMIN FOR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The following individuals at ISU are available to assist you with any problems or questions you may have.

Director of Graduate Education

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3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, the applicant should have a bachelor's degree in engineering or related field from a college or university of recognized standing. Non-engineering backgrounds will be considered on a case-by-case basis. High academic achievement or other persuasive evidence of professional accomplishments is expected for admission to the program. The GRE is not required.

Applicants for admission to the Systems Engineering Program or the Engineering Management Program apply through the Graduate College at Iowa State University <https://www.admissions.iastate.edu/apply/online/>. Each applicant must submit:

- Application and application fee
- Official academic transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume

Application Deadlines:

- *Spring:* *November 15*
- *Summer:* *April 15*
- *Fall:* *July 15*

Individuals may also take up to nine credits at Iowa State as a non-degree seeking student and then transfer them to the program when they are admitted. However, please note that you must apply again to the program if you begin as a non-degree student.

The Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering Program and the Master of Engineering in Engineering Management Program at Iowa State University are focused on supporting full-time working professionals and on-campus students. Courses listed in the degree requirements are generally available both online or in-person (“face-to-face”).

Common Questions and Points of Note

The following points are questions and/or issues that arise frequently enough that they warrant calling out directly:

- Teaching assistantships, research assistantships and other financial aid are not available via the IMSE Department.
- The elective courses for both programs listed in this handbook are pre-approved, meaning the Director of Graduate Education (DOGE) has approved them as electives already. Other elective courses may occasionally be accepted, subject to approval.
- Transfer credits from another institution must meet certain requirements. See section 7.3 of this handbook and the Graduate College Handbook for more details.
- A limited number of undergraduate courses may count as part of a student's Academic Plan under certain conditions. A 3000-level course may be acceptable in some cases, but must be outside of the student's major. See the Graduate College Handbook for details.
- Once admitted to the program, taking a course or courses not on the approved course list with the intent of satisfying program requirements is unacceptable if prior approval is not obtained. In other words, it is inappropriate for a student to ask for approval of a course to satisfy program requirements after the class has commenced or after the class has been completed.
- If a student is admitted to the program with a deficiency (needs to take a statistics course, as an example), then they must not complete any other courses *before* completing the deficiency. It is permissible for a student to take a deficiency course at the same time as taking another course, but beginning the program by taking core courses or electives without first completing deficiencies is not allowed. Deficiency courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better in order to receive credit for making up the deficiency.
- Failure to achieve a grade of "C" or better for a deficiency course, and/or having an overall program grade point average below 3.0 will necessitate a review of student progress by the Director of Graduate Education (DOGE). A student may be required to take classes external to Iowa State University, dismissed from the program, or be put on academic probation, at the discretion of the DOGE.

4. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering: 30 credits (10 classes)

A. Intro/Core (required first year)

IE 5630:	Engineering & Systems Management	Fall
IE 5650:	Systems Engineering and Analysis	Spring

B. Core (required)

IE 5640:	Decision Analysis in System Design	Spring
IE 5700:	Systems Engineering and Project Management	Spring
IE 5850:	Requirements & Architecture Engineering	Fall

C. Electives (choose from this list)

IE 4480:	Manufacturing Systems Engineering	Spring
IE 4520:	Introduction to Systems Engineering	Spring
IE 5200:	Engineering Problem Solving with R	Fall
IE 5600:	Engineering Risk Analysis	Alt. Fall (Odd)
IE 5610:	Total Quality Management	Alt. Spring (Even)
IE 5720:	Design & Evaluation of Human-Computer Interaction	Spring
IE 5770:	Human Factors	Fall
IE 5810:	E-Commerce Systems Engineering	Alt. Fall (Odd)
IE 5820:	Enterprise Modeling & Integration	Check with Staff
ME 5250:	Optimization Methods for Complex Designs	Check with Staff
AerE 5630:	Intro to Multidisciplinary Design Optimization	Check with Staff

One “free elective” from any graduate program (optional)	Varies
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To register for NON-IE courses, you may need to submit a [Prerequisite Override Request](#) through Workday first, if you are not able to register directly.

The student’s major professor will be the Director of Graduate Education for Systems Engineering, who is responsible for monitoring progress and providing guidance on coursework. The major professor approves each student’s Academic Plan.

Certificate in Systems Engineering: 12 credits (4 classes)

A. Intro/Core (required first year)

IE 5630: Engineering & Systems Management	Fall
IE 5650: Systems Engineering and Analysis	Spring

B. Core (pick 2)

IE 5640: Decision Analysis in System Design	Spring
IE 5600: Engineering Risk Analysis	Alt. Fall (Odd)
IE 5700: Systems Engineering and Project Management	Spring
IE 5850: Requirements & Architecture Engineering	Fall

The student's major professor will be the Director of Graduate Education for Systems Engineering Certificate Option, who is responsible for monitoring progress and providing guidance on coursework. The major professor approves each student's Academic Plan.

Master of Engineering in Engineering Management: 30 credits (10 classes)

A. Intro/Core (required first year)

IE 5630:	Engineering & Systems Management	Fall
IE 5650:	Systems Engineering and Analysis	Spring

B. Core (required)

SCM 5240:	Strategic Process Analysis & Improvement	Fall
IE 5700:	Systems Engineering and Project Management	Spring
MGMT 5830:	Formulating and Implementing Innovation Strategies	Fall/Spring
ACCT 5810:	Accounting for Decision Making	Spring

C. Electives

1. Engineering Electives

IE 5200:	Engineering Problem Solving with R	Fall
IE 5600:	Engineering Risk Analysis	Alt Fall (Odd)
IE 5610:	Total Quality Management	Alt Sprg (Even)
IE 5640:	Decision Analysis in System Design	Spring
IE 5720:	Design & Evaluation of Human-Computer Interaction	Spring
IE 5770:	Human Factors	Fall
IE 5810:	e-Commerce Systems Engineering	Alt Fall (odd)
ConE 3800:	Engineering Law	Check w/ ConE

2. Business Electives (at most one from list)

FIN 5010:	Financial Valuation & Corporation Financial Decisions	Spring
MKT 5010:	Marketing	Summer
MGMT 5030:	Professional Responsibility in Business & Society	Spring

3. One “free elective” from any graduate program (optional)

To register for NON-IE courses, you may need to submit a [Prerequisite Override Request](#) first, if you are not able to register directly.

The student’s major professor will be the Director of Graduate Education for Engineering Management, who has responsibility for monitoring progress and providing guidance on coursework. The major professor approves each student’s Academic Plan.

5. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF TASKS TO OBTAIN DEGREE

All tutorial links noted below and other relevant forms can be found on the Graduate College website at <https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/student/forms/>

<i>Items</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>	<i>More Info</i>
Application to Graduate Program	Before the completion of nine credit hours of coursework at ISU (non-degree seeking students)	https://www.iastate.edu/admission-and-aid/apply
Committee and Academic Plan Approval	Before completing 12 credits of graduate work	Committee Membership must be approved before completing the Academic Plan in Workday. Dr. Dorneich will be your major professor; you do not need to add any other committee members. Concurrent BS/MEng students must also articulate any grad-level courses (up to 2) taken before concurrency was declared, before submitting the Academic Plan.
Application for Program Completion Filed	Before or within 3 weeks of when the semester of graduation begins	Instructions
Request for Graduation Check/Approval	Within 3 weeks of the start of the semester of graduation	Instructions

6. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS TO OBTAIN DEGREE

6.1. COMPLETE APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

- **You must be admitted to the Graduate College before you complete more than nine hours of graduate coursework at ISU.** That is, if you are taking courses as a non-degree (undeclared) student, do not take more than 9 credits at ISU before you formally apply to the Systems Engineering program. **Only 9 credits taken before admission may be applied to the total number of credits required for graduation.**
- You may apply online at <https://www.iastate.edu/admission-and-aid/apply>

6.2. SATISFY GRADUATE ENGLISH REQUIREMENT, IF APPLICABLE

- Non-native speakers or international students who do not have undergraduate degrees from U.S. universities must take the English Placement Test (EPT) at the beginning of their first semester of enrollment. Students who do not pass the exam will be assigned to take one or more English courses. **Distance students are automatically exempted from this requirement.** For more information on the EPT, including other exemption criteria, please click [here](#).

6.3. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC PLAN (FORMERLY POSC)

- Should be submitted before completing 12 credits of graduate work. If necessary, changes may be made to the Academic Plan at a later date by making edits in Workday.
- Committee (consisting of DOGE as graduate major professor) must be approved before submitting the Academic Plan. Click [here](#) for instructions.
- Concurrent BS/MEng students must also request articulation for any graduate-level courses taken in their undergraduate program. Click [here](#) for instructions. You must have earned a **B or better** in those courses to add them to your Academic Plan.
- For instructions on how to complete the Academic Plan, click [here](#).
- Students must earn a grade of C or better in all other courses on the Academic Plan, while maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA. A student cannot graduate with an F on their record, even if the course is not used on the Academic Plan.

6.4. APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM COMPLETION AND COURSEWORK-ONLY FINAL CHECK

- Must be submitted within the first three weeks of the semester of graduation.
- For instructions on filing the Application for Program Completion, click [here](#).
- For instructions on submitting the Coursework Only Final Check, click [here](#).

6.5. GRADUATE COLLEGE HANDBOOK

- For detailed information regarding the items described above, please consult the **Graduate Handbook**. The handbook describes Graduate College guidelines and procedures. You can access the latest version of the handbook [here](#).

7. COURSES

7.1. SCHEDULE OF COURSES

- A schedule of courses available for the current and upcoming semester can be found at <https://classes.iastate.edu>. Please toggle the Advanced Filters slider to search for Online course delivery if applicable.

7.2. REGISTERING FOR COURSES

- Students should register for courses through [Workday](#). If the course is offered by a department other than IE, the student may need to request permission first by submitting a Prerequisite Override Request through Workday (instructions [here](#)). You do not need to upload any supplemental materials to submit the request.

7.3. TRANSFER COURSES

- You may not transfer more than nine hours of coursework to be applied to your program of study if those courses were taken at ISU, and no more than eight hours from another accredited institution. In other words, at least twenty-two credits must be taken at ISU. The certificate program does not allow for transfer credits from outside ISU. You must receive a “B” or better on any transfer course. It is advisable to get the course approved with your major professor before you take the course. Provide a description of the course numbering system (in order for ISU to confirm that the course is a graduate level course) or some other type of evidence that the institution at which you took the course considers it to be a graduate course. Also provide a copy of the course syllabus, a catalog description of the course, the name of textbook(s) used for the course, and the name and e-mail address of the course instructor. See the Graduate College Handbook for details.

7.4. TEXTBOOKS

- Textbook information is available from the [University Book Store](#). Most textbooks are now delivered electronically through Canvas via the [Immediate Access](#) program.

7.5. TUITION AND FEES

- Students taking courses on-campus are assessed tuition and fees based on their residency. More info can be found [here](#).
- The latest information on distance tuition and fees can be found [here](#).

8. IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS

<i>What</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Website</i>
University Bookstore	1-800-478-0048, or 515-294-5684	https://www.isubookstore.com/
College of Engineering	515-294-7186	https://www.engineering.iastate.edu/
Iowa State Online	515-294-3916	https://iowastateonline.iastate.edu/
Graduate Admissions	515-294-5836	https://www.iastate.edu/admission-and-aid/admissions/graduate-students
Graduate College	515-294-4531	https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/