



## International Program Requirements

### Master of Science in Engineering – Mechanical Engineering (MSE)

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#### I. International Applicants

If you are not a U.S. Citizen, a U.S. Legal Permanent Resident or a Political Asylee to the U.S. you are considered an international applicant.

#### II. Description of Degree

The Mechanical Engineering Department offers a graduate program leading to a Master of Science in engineering degree. The program has a thesis option, a project with report option, and a course option. Coursework is offered in areas including mechanics and design, materials, and thermal/fluid sciences. Potential research opportunities exist in combustion, nanotechnology, smart structures, biomechanics, robotics, mechatronics, acoustics and vibrations, materials science, solid mechanics, experimental heat transfer, and laser material processing.

#### III. Program Requirements

##### 1. Online Application

The application to UTPA's graduate programs can be completed online at [www.utpa.edu/gradapply](http://www.utpa.edu/gradapply)

##### 2. Application Fee

The University application fee of \$50 can be paid online by credit card or electronic check (in the online application). All application fees are non-refundable.

##### 3. English Proficiency Exam

The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) requires all International applicants, whose native language is not English (and domestic applicants who do not qualify for any of the Exceptions to the English proficiency tests) to complete and have submitted the scores for either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) before the application deadlines.

#### A. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

- The institution code to forward your scores to the University of Texas-Pan American is **6570**



- Scores must be sent directly from Educational Testing Services (ETS) to UTPA. Student copies are not be accepted.
- Scores are valid for two years. If the test date was more than two years ago, the applicant must retake the examination and request that an official report from ETS be sent to UTPA.
- UTPA does not accept institutional (or residual) TOEFL exams taken at another institution.
- The minimum acceptable total score is 500 for paper/pencil tests or 173 for computer-based tests or 61 for internet-based tests (Note: some programs require a higher score, please check the program requirements page for more information). For more information please visit [TOEFL iBT Score Comparison Tables \(pdf\)](#).
- The test bulletin of information and registration forms are usually available at American embassies and consulates, offices of the United States. Information Agency, or online at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

### **B. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**

Scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the Graduate School. Students scoring below a 5.5 on the IELTS will not be eligible for admission. For information visit: [IELTS](#).

### **C. Exceptions to the TOEFL or IELTS**

- Lifetime residents of Australia, Canada (other than Quebec), New Zealand, United Kingdom, or the United States (other than Puerto Rico).
- Students who have recently and successfully completed at least 30 hours of university level academic studies in one of the countries listed.

## **4. Evaluation of Educational Records**

- International applicants must have their transcript(s) evaluated by Foreign Credentials Service of America (FCSA). [Click here for the FCSA application](#). Additional information is available at [www.fcsa.biz](http://www.fcsa.biz) or (512) 459-8428.
- Students may send copies of their transcript(s) directly to FCSA. The student must bring the original copy of the transcript to the Office of Graduate Studies and a copy will be made to be placed in the student's file. This can be done at any point after the application is submitted or during the student's first semester, but must be done before the student registers for the second semester. Students not complying with this requirement will not be able to register for future semesters.
- Failure to submit a complete/correct application and official transcripts from all institutions attended will result in one of the following: rejection of application, withdrawal of admission offer or disciplinary action including expulsion if the student is enrolled.
- All submitted documents become the property of UTPA and will not be returned. Admission documents will remain on file for one year if the applicant does not attend the University.

Documents will be retained for seven years for students enrolled in a master's level program and for ten years for students enrolled in a doctoral program. Please review the [Student File Retention Schedule](#) for more details.



Should you have any questions about this, please contact FCSA at:

FCSA

1910 Justin Lane

Austin, TX 78757-2411

Phone (512) 459-8428 • Fax (512) 459-4565

E-mail: [info@fcsa.biz](mailto:info@fcsa.biz) • Website: [www.fcsa.biz](http://www.fcsa.biz)

### 5. English Translation of Educational Records

In addition to the official transcripts required for admission, an English translation must be included to allow for accurate interpretations.

### 6. Financial documentation

In accordance with immigration regulations, all international students are required to submit to the Office of Graduate Studies documentation showing sufficient funds (minimum of \$25,000 subject to change) to cover all expenses (living and academic) for the first year of study.

- Documentation must be in the form of letters from the bank or of statements showing specific dollar amounts available. These documents are not valid unless dated within three months of the date of acceptance.
- If funds that are from a source other than the applicant or their immediate family, the sponsor must submit a letter of support, state the amount of funding pledged, and attaches copies of recent bank statements.
- These documents are not valid unless dated within three months of the date of acceptance.
- If you have been offered a scholarship you will need to provide documentation and dollar amount of the scholarship to our office.
- If you have been offered an assistantship by the university you will need to provide documentation and dollar amount of the assistantship to our office.
- Mexican nationals may also apply for the Mexican Non-Resident Tuition Waiver and provide all financial documentation that it requires (see the OIAS for application or download form).

For more information about financial documentation and immigration documents please contact

Office of International Admissions and Services (OIAS)

LAC Room 156, 1201 W. University Drive Edinburg, TX

78541-2999

Phone 956.665.2922 • Fax 956.665.2281

E-mail: [intladvise@utpa.edu](mailto:intladvise@utpa.edu) • Website: <http://www.utpa.edu/oias>

### 7. Current Immigration documents

All international applicants must submit a *current copy of your valid passport* so that we may ensure that the spelling of your name is consistent on all immigration and university documents.

- If approved for admission the Office of International Admissions and Services will issue an I-20 which you will need to take to the nearest U.S. Consulate and apply for a student visa (detailed instructions will be included with the I-20).
- For international applicants who plan to attend on a visa status other than F-1 or F-3 student status, proof of that status is required. Include copies of all immigration documents.
- If you have applied for U.S. Residency but have not yet received it you must attach copies of immigration documents.



- If you are in the U.S. but currently having no legal status (undocumented) please note so on the application. Please contact OIAS as you may qualify for in-state tuition based on Texas Senate Bill 1528.
- Information and documents needed to obtain a student visa will be sent to you if you have been accepted to UTPA

### 8. Previous Education

The minimum requirements for unconditional admission to the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program are a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with an overall grade point average of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Applicants who do not satisfy the specific program admission requirements may be considered for conditional admission.

Prospective graduate students whose bachelor's degree is in a field other than mechanical engineering are required to take leveling courses, prescribed by the graduate program director, before they can be considered for admission to the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program.

### 9. Letters of Recommendation

Three Letters of Recommendation from academic and/or professional sources (submitted online).

### 10. Personal Statement

Personal Statement (letter) detailing reasons for pursuing the graduate degree and professional goals (submitted online).

### 11. Resume

Resume to be submitted online.

## IV. Deadlines

	Fall	Spring	Summer I	Summer II
Deadlines for Priority Registration	Feb. 1	Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Sept. 1
Application Deadlines*	June 1	Oct. 1	March 1	April 1

\* Applicants must submit all application documents and meet all other requirements by the published deadline date for the semester to which they are applying in order to be considered for admission. Note: Priority deadlines have been established that allow ample time for the application review to be completed before the first day of registration.

## V. Offers of Admission to the Graduate School

Official admission offers will be made only by the Office of Graduate Studies and are valid only for the semester requested on the application. Through the [Online Application Web site](#), you will be able to view the status of your application. Students who are accepted but do not attend the semester requested on the application must submit an application for readmission to enroll for a later semester.

An additional application fee will be charged if the student reapplies more than one year from the semester originally requested. [Re-Apply](#)



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## VI. Program Contact Information

Program Website: [Master of Science in Engineering - Mechanical Engineering](#)

Program Director: Dr. Constantine Tarawneh

Email: [tarawneh@utpa.edu](mailto:tarawneh@utpa.edu)

Phone: (956) 665-2607

## VII. Application Checklist

1.  Online application
2.  Application fee
3.  Official transcripts
4.  TOEFL or IELTS scores
5.  Evaluation of educational records
6.  English Translation of Educational Records
7.  Financial Documentation
8.  Current Immigration Documentation
9.  GPA of 2.75 or higher
10.  Three letters of recommendation
11.  Personal Statement
12.  Resume