

# Civil and Environmental Engineering Accelerated Master's Degree Policy

## Michigan Technological University

Students can accelerate their education by participating in an integrated bachelor's and master's degree program, which would enable one to earn two degrees in five years. The Civil and Environmental Engineering Accelerated Master's programs will allow up to six (6) credits to be applied towards both a Bachelor of Science in [Civil](#) or [Environmental](#) Engineering and a Master of Science in [Civil](#) or [Environmental](#) Engineering. Students completing either bachelor's degree may apply to either master's program (e.g., a student with a B.S. in Civil Engineering may apply for the accelerated M.S. in Environmental Engineering, given that the double-counted courses are appropriate to environmental engineering). The Civil and Environmental Engineering Accelerated Master's program offers thesis, report, or coursework-only options.

The Civil and Environmental Accelerated MS program will adhere to the [policy and procedures](#) for MS programs set forth by the Graduate School. Additional guidelines and minimum requirements to be adhered to within the Civil and Environmental Accelerated MS program are indicated herein.

### Admissions

- Undergraduate students must apply for admission to the accelerated master's program through the standard [Graduate School application process](#) (GRE scores are not required) during their junior year or early in their senior year.
- Applications for students must be completed no later than the end of Week 6 of their second to last semester of BS coursework.
- A [course plan](#) signed by the planned advisor is required and should be emailed to the Graduate Program Assitant.
- GRE scores are not required for the application process; however, students are strongly encouraged to take the GRE during the final year of the bachelor's program.
- The accelerated master's program requires a student to be accepted into the Graduate School and the Master of Science in Civil or Environmental Engineering program prior to the awarding of the bachelor's degree.
- Only students who will complete both a bachelor's and a master's in civil or environmental engineering at Michigan Tech are eligible to enroll in the accelerated program.
- Students already enrolled in a graduate program may not retroactively enroll in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Accelerated Master's program.

### Academic Standing

All students must complete a minimum of 131 credits in appropriate subjects before the bachelor's degree will be awarded and the student is considered a graduate student. At the time the Bachelor's degree is awarded, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and a

departmental GPA of at least 3.5 to continue in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Accelerated Master's program. Alternatively, students with a departmental GPA between 3.0 and 3.5, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, must also have a strong recommendation from their faculty advisor in order to continue in the Accelerated Master's program. If these conditions are not met, a student may continue in pursuit of the Master's degree via the conventional pathway (which does not allow credits to be double-counted) without re-applying and notifying the Graduate School.

Students will be considered undergraduates for the purposes of financial aid, tuition, and class standing until their undergraduate degree has been awarded. Once students are awarded their undergraduate degree, they will be considered graduate students for the purposes of financial aid and tuition.

### **Courses and Research (30 credits total)**

Students must earn 30 credits past the Bachelor of Science in Civil or Environmental Engineering to complete the requirements for the Master of Science in Civil or Environmental Engineering. Of these 30 credits, up to six credits taken as an undergraduate student can be applied toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees provided they satisfy the requirements for both degrees, are at the 4000 or 5000-level, and are approved by the student's advisor, as well as either the department chair or graduate program director. These six credits to be double-counted are independent of Senior Rule credits that may additionally count toward the master's degree. To help ensure an accelerated degree schedule for Thesis Option students, the student should begin conducting degree research with their advisor during the senior year; however, MS research credits may be earned only after the bachelor's degree is awarded.

### **Advising**

- Each student will work with a faculty advisor who is a member of the civil or environmental engineering faculty.
- The faculty advisor's primary responsibility is to supervise the student's research and/or professional growth, as well as to work with the student to develop an academic plan for enrolling in the appropriate courses for the student and program.
- Before a student is allowed to complete the accelerated master's program, the faculty advisor shall ensure that the student's level of preparation and attainment are consistent with the high standard expected of all M.S. graduates from the CEE department at MTU.