

## **Department of Materials Science and Engineering Accelerated BS+MS**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this program is to offer outstanding undergraduates an opportunity to complete the BS and MS degrees in as little as 5 years. We believe this will attract to Michigan Tech outstanding high school students who might be considering other universities who already offer this opportunity. We also believe this opportunity will encourage outstanding undergraduates already in the MSE program to consider staying at Michigan Tech for graduate studies.

### **General Rules for Participation in this Program**

- 1) This program will be offered in the thesis option only. With the thesis option students are required to complete at least 30 credits, of which at least 20 credits must be coursework and a minimum of 9 credits of research.
- 2) Students must meet all Graduate School requirements for the thesis option master of science degree.
- 3) The maximum time to MS degree for students in an accelerated master's program is 5 years from the time the student is accepted into the program.
- 4) The accelerated master's program applies only for students who earn both bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan Tech in the major of Materials Science and Engineering.
- 5) Students already enrolled in a graduate program may not retroactively enroll in this program.
- 6) Students can apply for admission to the accelerated master's program at any time after they attain junior-level class standing, up until they are awarded their bachelor's degree. Once the BS degree has been awarded, students are ineligible to apply for the accelerated masters program. Students should apply to the Graduate School at Michigan Tech, indicating the semester they plan to begin their graduate studies. Students must notify the Graduate School if their enrollment term changes due to a change in the actual completion date of the BS degree.
- 7) In order to be formally accepted into an accelerated master's program students must apply to and be accepted into the Graduate School at Michigan Tech. Applications will be reviewed by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering according to their normal procedure.
- 8) Only students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above are eligible to enter an accelerated master's program. Students who are accepted to the program will not be allowed to continue in the accelerated program if their cumulative undergraduate GPA falls below 3.0.
- 9) Undergraduate students who have been dropped from the program because of a cumulative GPA under 3.0 may reapply for admission to the accelerated MS program if their cumulative GPA returns to 3.0 or above, provided that they have not completed requirements for the BS degree. If a student has been accepted into the Graduate School at Michigan Tech but is dropped from MSE's accelerated program because the GPA falls below 3.0 and the student fails to bring the GPA to 3.0 or higher before finishing the BS

degree, that student will not be allowed to apply “double counted” credits to the MS degree.

10) 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.

11) Prior to completion of the master’s degree, students must indicate on their master’s degree schedule which undergraduate-level courses (if any are allowed by the program) and credits (up to a maximum of six, if allowed by the program for an accelerated master's degree) should be applied to both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Indicated courses are subject to approval by the Department and the MTU Graduate School.

### **Additional Requirements to the MSE Accelerated MS Program**

1) This plan requires completion of a minimum of 152 credits of graded coursework (in addition to three credits of physical education to be taken as an undergraduate). In order to complete the program in the time frame shown in the suggested flowchart, at least 3 credits of graded coursework must be taken under “Senior Rule” (in which graduate approved courses are taken while students are undergraduates, but the course is reserved for the graduate transcript and cannot be used to satisfy undergraduate degree requirements). If students do not reserve at least three credits under Senior Rule, the length of time to finish the accelerated program may be extended.

2) If students have at least 3 credits of AP or transferred courses, students may take an additional Senior Rule course in place of free elective.

3) Graduate status under this plan begins in the summer after the fourth year, provided that all degree requirements for the BS degree in Materials Science and Engineering have been met and the student has been accepted by the Graduate Program.

4) Students who plan to participate in this program should see the undergraduate academic advisor for planning a time frame for the required coursework. They should also meet with their graduate advisor as soon as they apply to the program to discuss research requirements.

5) Courses to be “double counted” for the BS and MS degrees must be approved by the Graduate advisor. Students must earn a “B” or higher in courses that will be “double counted.”

6) Use of up to 3 credits of undergraduate research, MY4990, in place of graduate research, MY5990, may be applied to the MS degree at the discretion of the graduate advisor.