

**Texas A&M University-Kingsville**  
**Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering**  
**Fast-Track MS Program**

The Fast-Track MS program allows high achieving and gifted undergraduate students to include master's level engineering courses in their undergraduate degree plans and get admitted automatically to graduate programs in the College of Engineering. Students can pursue any of the graduate programs currently offered in the college: Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Industrial Management, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, and Natural Gas Engineering.

The Fast-Track program enables qualified TAMUK, undergraduate engineering students, to step up their education to obtain both BS and MS degrees in approximately five years of full-time studies. The students admitted to the program will be able to include approved 5000 and 6000 level graduate courses as part of an undergraduate degree plan. If the undergraduate students choose the fast track MS program, they will not be required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Test. Qualified students can take up to 9 graduate semester credit hours that may be used to complete the baccalaureate degree and also satisfy requirements for the master's degree if these courses are completed with grades of B or better.

Fast-Track courses taken during the undergraduate senior year must be well chosen so that they satisfy the requirements of the BS degree **AND** those of the intended MS degree. It should be noted that many of the MS programs have tracks or concentration areas with different core requirements. Fast Track students may fulfill some of their major course requirements: their undergraduate guided electives and/or their free electives by taking graduate-level courses. Those graduate courses should also be core or elective courses for the intended MS major.

They are also allowed to take additional graduate courses while completing their undergrad requirements if desired, but these would only count toward their MS degree, not both MS and BS degrees. This would allow a student to complete the remaining BS courses their last semester while also starting on their MS coursework. Fast-Track students may pre-register for graduate courses starting when they are in the final year of completing their undergraduate degree and their completed and in-progress courses total at least 90 credits.

Undergraduate students who are enrolled in one BS program within the college may request admission to a different MS program within the college. For example, Civil Engineering seniors may elect to Fast Track into other MS programs such as Environmental Engineering or Computer Science. Since cross-tracking from a different program requires additional courses that might not be required by the student's BS major, careful and advanced planning is required. Students planning to cross-track should select MS courses from the list of prerequisites and core courses for their intended MS major. Note that these graduate prerequisites or core courses may also have prerequisites. A complete list of these dependencies must be considered before the student can be sure of opting for cross-tracking.

## Application Requirements

An undergraduate student in the College of Engineering qualifies to apply for the Fast-Track program if the student meets the following:

1. Has senior status and is in the final year in which the student is completing all undergraduate requirements for graduation to receive a bachelor's degree.
2. Has a minimum Overall TAMUK GPA of 2.6.
3. Has a preferred minimum TAMUK GPA of 2.75 for all engineering major courses.

## Fast-Track Application and Admission Process

1. Check application requirements to see if you are qualified to apply to the Fast-Track Program.
2. Consult the graduate catalog for the requirements of the graduate program you are interested in and discuss the tentative course selection with the appropriate graduate coordinator.
3. Discuss with your undergraduate advisor to check whether the graduate courses you are considering fit your undergraduate degree requirements.
4. Complete the Fast-Track Application form.
5. The graduate program will notify you of the decision after the application package is reviewed by the department. Admission is not automatically granted for those satisfying the application requirements and that the decisions are based on multiple factors, including recommendations from the advisor, chair, and the graduate coordinator.

## Options

- **Option-1:** An undergraduate student registers for a graduate-level course, completes the graduate course, and receives a letter grade (A-F) for the graduate course and credit (CR) for the corresponding undergraduate course.
- **Option-2:** An undergraduate student registers for an undergraduate course, completes the undergraduate course and additional tasks/challenges (which could be additional exam(s), project(s), and so on), and receives a letter grade (A-F) for the undergraduate course and credit (CR) for the graduate course (via **Credit by Examination form**).

## Matriculating to the Master's Degree

Upon successful completion of the BS degree, while satisfying overall and major-specific GPAs as well as completing the courses for graduate credit with at least a grade of B, the student will transition to the appropriate MS degree program. Graduate matriculation will be created for these students so that they can continue their studies towards their MS degree without any additional documentation or application fees. Subsequently, students must meet with an MS degree graduate advisor and complete any necessary degree plan requirements during the first semester in graduate school.