

**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.

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 electives by taking graduate-level courses. Those graduate courses should also be core or elective courses for the intended MS major. This would allow a student to complete the remaining BS courses their last semester while also starting on their MS coursework.

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. 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 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/chair.
3. Discuss with your undergraduate advisor to check whether the graduate courses you are considering fit your undergraduate degree requirements.
4. Apply for the graduate program to which the student wishes to matriculate into through Apply Texas <http://www.applytexas.org>. This will ensure that there is an application in place. There is no need to pay the application fees.
5. Meet with the department chair to complete the Fast-Track course the workflow form at the beginning of the semester to fill in the graduate course and equivalent undergraduate course selected. More than once course can be selected at the same time, if needed.
6. If courses are taken across more than one semester, the above step needs to be done each semester for the course/s taken in that particular semester.
7. Register and attend the graduate course/s.
8. Upon successfully completing the course, the graduate course will be given a letter grade and a credit will be given for the undergraduate course.

## **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 graduate courses selected for the Fast Track program, the student will transition to the appropriate MS degree program. Graduate matriculation will be created for the students so that they can continue their studies towards their MS degree without any additional documentation. Subsequently, students must meet with the MS degree graduate coordinator and complete any necessary degree plan requirements during the first semester in graduate school.