

Mechanical Engineering with Concentration in Materials Science, MSME

For program contact information, please visit this website (<https://mie.northeastern.edu/academics/graduate-studies/ms-mece/>).

Overview

While pursuing a Master of Science (MS) in Mechanical Engineering, students may choose materials science as a concentration. Materials science has been the key enabler in virtually all engineering breakthroughs that have occurred from early metal ages to the present nano age. In step with the scientific development and discovery of materials, members of the mechanical and industrial engineering (MIE) faculty are involved in interdisciplinary research to further materials processing, synthesis, and design. Research areas are aligned with Northeastern University's broad initiatives of sustainability, security, and health, as well as national initiatives in manufacturing and nanotechnology. Investigations in the areas of metals/alloys, polymers, biomaterials (including biomimetics), and composites incorporating nanoscale materials make use of experimental, theoretical, and computational techniques to tailor structure-processing-property relationships in materials for specific applications. Current areas of research include controlling synthesis and assembly processes to produce well-defined atomic structures; defect engineering; manipulating atomic/microstructures and the chemistry of materials to optimize properties for next-generation structural, electronic, and energy applications; solidification and deformation processing, nanomanufacturing; and life-cycle assessments for nanocomposites/materials. Northeastern faculty and students are committed to creative thinking and engineering innovation to propel materials development to the forefront of scientific research.

GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to any of the MS degree programs, a prospective student must hold a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, science, mathematics, or an equivalent field. Students in all master's degree programs must complete a minimum of 32 semester hours of approved coursework (exclusive of any preparatory courses) with a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.000. Students can complete a master's degree by pursuing any of one of the three tracks: coursework option, project option, and thesis option. Specific degree requirements for each of these tracks can be found under the Program Requirements tab. Students may pursue any program either on a full-time or part-time basis; however, certain restrictions may apply.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ADVISORS

All nonthesis students are advised by the academic advisor designated for their respective concentration or program. Students willing to pursue the thesis option must first find a research advisor within their first year of study. The research advisor will guide the students' thesis work, and thesis reader(s) may be assigned at the discretion of their research advisor. The research advisor must be a full-time or jointly appointed faculty. If the research advisor is outside the MIE department, before the thesis option can be approved, a faculty member with 51 percent or more appointments in the MIE department must be chosen as co-advisor, and a petition must be filed and approved by the co-advisor and the MIE Graduate Affairs Committee. Thesis option students are advised by the faculty advisor of their concentration before they select their research advisor(s). The research advisor and co-advisor must serve as thesis readers.

PLAN OF STUDY AND COURSE SELECTION

It is recommended that all new students attend orientation sessions held by the MIE department and the Graduate School of Engineering to acquaint themselves with the coursework requirements and research activities of the department as well as with the general policies, procedures, and expectations.

In order to receive proper guidance with their coursework needs, all MS students are strongly encouraged to complete and submit a fully signed Plan of Study (PS) to the department before enrolling in second-semester courses. This form not only helps the students manage their coursework but it also helps the department to plan for requested course offerings. The PS form may be modified at any time as the students progress in their degree programs.

Students pursuing study or research under the guidance of a faculty member can choose project option by taking Master's Project (ME 7945). An MS project must be petitioned to the MIE Graduate Affairs Committee and approved by both the faculty member (instructor for Master's Project) and the student's academic advisor. The petition must clearly state the reason for taking the project course; a brief description of the goals; as well as the expected outcomes, deliverables, and grading scheme.

Students pursuing coursework option may petition the MIE Graduate Affairs Committee to substitute up to a 4-semester-hour (ME 7978). An independent study must be approved by the instructor and the academic advisor. The petition must clearly state the instructor; the reason for taking the course; a brief description of the goals; as well as the expected outcomes, deliverables, and grading scheme. When taking thesis or project options, the independent study course cannot be taken.

OPTIONS FOR MS STUDENTS (COURSEWORK ONLY, PROJECT, OR THESIS)

Students accepted into any of the MS programs in the MIE department can choose one of the three options: coursework only, project, or thesis. Please see the Program Requirements tab on the top menu of this page for more information. MS students who want to pursue project or thesis options must find, within the first year of their study, a faculty member or a research advisor who will be willing to direct and supervise a mutually agreed research project or MS thesis. Moreover, students who receive financial support from the university in the form of a research, teaching, or tuition assistantship must complete 8 semester hours of thesis. Students are strongly encouraged to complete their 8 semester hours of Thesis (ME 7990) over two consecutive semesters.

Students who complete the thesis option must make a presentation of their thesis before approval by the department. The MS thesis presentation shall be publicly advertised at least one week in advance and all faculty members and students may attend and participate. If deemed appropriate by the research advisor, other faculty members may be invited to serve as thesis readers to provide technical opinions and judge the quality of the thesis and presentation.

CHANGE OF PROGRAM/CONCENTRATION

Students enrolled in any of the MIE department programs or concentrations may change their current program or concentration no sooner than the beginning of their second full-time semester of study. In order for the program or concentration change request to be considered by the MIE Graduate Affairs Committee, the student must not be in the first semester of their current program, must have a 3.300 GPA, and have completed at least 8 semester hours of required coursework in their sought program at Northeastern.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OPTIONS

Students enrolled in a master's degree have the opportunity to also pursue one of the many engineering graduate certificate options in addition to or in combination with the MS degree. Students should consult their faculty advisor regarding these options (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/engineering/graduate-certificate-programs/>).

GORDON INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP

Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering with Concentration in Materials Science with Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership

Students may complete a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Concentration in Materials Science in addition to earning a Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/engineering/multidisciplinary/engineering-leadership-graduate-certificate/>). Students must apply and be admitted to the Gordon Engineering Leadership Program in order to pursue this option. The program requires fulfillment of the 16-semester-hour curriculum required to earn the Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership, which includes an industry-based challenge project with multiple mentors. The integrated 32-semester-hour degree and certificate will require 16 hours of advisor-approved materials science technical courses.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 16 semester hours from the following:		16
MATL 6250	Soft Matter	
MATL 6285	Structure, Properties, and Processing of Polymeric Materials	
MATL 7355	Thermodynamics of Materials	
ME 5600	Materials Processing and Process Selection	
ME 5620	Fundamentals of Advanced Materials	

Options

Complete one of the following options:

COURSEWORK OPTION

Code	Title	Hours
Electives		
Complete 16 semester hours in the following subject areas:		16
ME, MATL		

PROJECT OPTION

Code	Title	Hours
MATL 7945	Master's Project	4
Electives		
Complete 12 semester hours in the following subject areas:		12
ME, MATL		

THESIS OPTION

Code	Title	Hours
ME 7990	Thesis ¹	8
Electives		
Complete 8 semester hours in the following subject areas:		8
ME, MATL		

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

32 total semester hours required

- ¹ Required for all students who receive financial support from the university in the form of a research, teaching, or tuition assistantship.