

# AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

An undergraduate major in engineering is normally a prerequisite to work in the major. Students without an undergraduate engineering degree will be considered for admission on a provisional basis (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>) pending the completion of a number of additional credits to be specified on an individual basis. These additional credits will not count towards the program degree requirements.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

All applicants must provide the department with official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>), as well as a statement of purpose written by the applicant, and at least three letters of recommendation. Admission into the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Graduate Program is based upon a thorough review of all applicant qualifications, and the best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of students for which department resources are available. GRE scores will not be accepted.

## Master of Science (M.S.)

Completion of an undergraduate degree in agricultural or biological engineering or in another related engineering discipline is required for direct admission to the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Graduate Program. Students need at least a 3.0 (4.0 base) junior/senior grade-point average to be considered for admission.

A student with an undergraduate degree in a non-engineering field can be admitted to the M.S. program on a provisional basis (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>), pending the completion of a number of additional credits to be specified on an individual basis. These additional credits will not count towards the M.S. degree requirements. The provisional status continues until completion of the engineering undergraduate requirements in mathematics, physics, engineering sciences and any additional required 400-level Biological Engineering courses. Upon completion of these preparatory courses with a minimum grade-point average of 3.0, the student will be admitted to the graduate program.

## Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The program requirement for acceptance to graduate study toward a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering is an M.S. degree with research thesis in an engineering or science discipline with a B.S.

degree from an engineering program. Outstanding students interested in direct admission from a B.S. engineering program to the Ph.D. Program should contact the Graduate Program Coordinator. Direct admission will be based on critical evaluation of the student's potential to conduct publishable research, academic record, statement of purpose, and reference letters. Students who apply directly to the Ph.D. program but are not qualified will be considered for admission into the M.S. program.

A student with an undergraduate degree in a non-engineering field can be admitted to the Ph.D. program on a provisional basis (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>), pending the completion of a number of additional credits to be specified on an individual basis. These additional credits will not count towards the Ph.D. degree requirements. The provisional status continues until completion of the engineering undergraduate requirements in mathematics, physics, engineering sciences and any additional required 400-level Biological Engineering courses. Upon completion of these preparatory courses with a minimum grade-point average of 3.0, the student will be admitted to the graduate program.