Biosystems Engineering

Requirements for Accelerated Bachelor’s/Master’s Program (ABM)

The accelerated bachelor’s/master’s degree program is designed to provide an opportunity for highly motivated students to gain an in-depth understanding of Biosystems Engineering beyond that of typical bachelor’s level graduates and make them more competitive for industrial positions or for graduate studies. Specifically, the program allows students to take three 6000 level courses (minimum of 9 credit hours) that will count for both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The accelerated degree program will also provide an opportunity for students involved in undergraduate research to build on that research and develop it into an M.S. thesis. The accelerated program allows student to obtain a Master’s degree in about 18 months after earning a Bachelor of Biosystems Engineering degree. The following are the guidelines and requirements for the ABM program.

1. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 to apply to the ABM program and must have a grade of at least B in the following courses (or departmentally approved equivalent courses) – BSEN 2210, BSEN 2240, BSEN 3310 & BSEN 3230.

2. Students can only apply to the ABM program at the end of Spring semester of their Junior year, but no later than June 1. Applications will initially be considered by the Biosystems Engineering graduate admissions committee. If favorable, the student can apply to Graduate School to be in the ABM program. Students cannot register and enroll in 6000 level courses until their ABM application is approved by the Graduate School.

3. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 to remain in the program and must make a grade of at least B in the graduate courses that are required for the ABM program. The advisory committee for the student will determine the list of graduate courses required for the ABM program (see bullet 6 below).

4. Note that acceptance into the ABM program does not constitute admission into the Master of Science program in Biosystems Engineering. Admission and acceptance into the Master of Science program will be contingent upon completion of the Bachelors degree. Students must take the GRE and apply for admission to Graduate School at the beginning of the senior year. All other requirements for admission into the Masters of Science program in Biosystems Engineering can be found in the Auburn University Bulletin and on the Biosystems Engineering departmental website.

5. Students will matriculate in the accelerated program at the beginning of Fall semester of the senior year of their undergraduate degree program. According to the model schedule, students
will complete the Bachelor of Biosystems Engineering in the first Spring following matriculation into the program, which would be their last semester in the normal bachelor’s degree program. The Master of Science in Biosystems Engineering should be completed no later 18 months after completion of the bachelor’s degree.

6. An advisory committee for the graduate student should be formed as soon as possible to identify courses that are relevant to the student's area of interest and to develop the plan of study. Since one of the goals of the ABM program is to enable students to obtain a Master’s degree in 18 months after the completion of Bachelor’s degree, it is required that the plan of study for the Master’s program be completed and approved by the student’s advisory committee for the student by the end of the Spring semester (May 15th) following matriculation into the ABM program.

7. Students may voluntarily withdraw from the ABM program at any time by notifying, in writing, their advisor, the Biosystems Engineering Undergraduate Program Coordinator and the Biosystems Engineering Graduate Program Officer. A copy of the request to withdraw from the program should be sent to the Dean of the Graduate School. Students who withdraw from the program voluntarily or because they do not meet program requirements will not be awarded graduate credit for double-counted courses.