Admissions and Academic Program Procedures

Admission to Graduate Study

Any person who holds a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or any equivalent degree from a college of good standing and who wishes to enroll as a graduate student at Missouri S&T must submit all required application materials to admissions. Required materials include an online application, an official transcript sent from all undergraduate and any graduate institutions, standardized test scores (GRE or GMAT) if required by your academic program and non-refundable application fee of $55 for U.S. citizens and permanent residents or $75 for international applicants, payable to Missouri S&T. Other application materials may be required by individual programs, so please refer to the department's website or entry in the Areas of Study section of this catalog to find out the specific admission requirements for your prospective degree program. All graduate school admissions must be approved by the chair or designate of the appropriate department, as well as the dean of graduate studies.

Application Deadlines for U.S. Students

Application materials should be received by the Missouri S&T office of admissions by the following dates:

- Fall semester – July 15
- Spring semester – December 15
- Summer session – May 1

International Student Admission

Students from outside the United States who wish to enroll at Missouri S&T are required to submit all application materials required by their prospective department, as well as to demonstrate a command of English sufficient to pursue graduate work at Missouri S&T. International students for whom English is a second language, or whose schooling has been conducted in another language, must demonstrate sufficient command of English to successfully pursue work at Missouri University of Science and Technology by doing one of the following:

I. Take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

The campus minimum for TOEFL scores is 79 (internet-based scoring). Departmental minimum acceptable scores are listed on the office of graduate studies' website or entry in the areas of study sections of this catalog.

Students may obtain TOEFL information from:

Test of English as a Foreign Language
Educational Testing Service
Box 899
Princeton, NJ 08540 USA
http://www.ets.org/toefl (http://www.ets.org/toefl/)

The TOEFL Bulletin of Information and registration form may also be obtained in a number of cities outside the United States, and are often available at American embassies and consulates, Offices of the United States Information Service (USIS), United States educational commissions and foundations abroad, and binational centers.

Students seeking Taiwanese editions of the TOEFL should apply to:

Language Center
2-1 Hsuchow Road
Taipei, Taiwan

TOEFL scores should be sent directly to Missouri S&T, using school code 6876.

II. Take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam.

The minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS exam is 6.5 for campus. Departmental minimums are listed on each department’s website or entry in the areas of study sections of this catalog.

Students may obtain test information from:

IELTS Administration
7900 W. Division
River Forest, IL 60305
http://www.ielts.org

III. Take the Pearson Test of English (PTE) exam.

The minimum acceptable overall band score on the Pearson Test of English (PTE) exam is 53 for campus. Departmental minimums are listed on each department’s website or entry in the areas of study sections of this catalog.

Students may obtain test information from https://PearsonPTE.com. (https://PearsonPTE.com/)

IV. Attend and satisfactorily complete an Intensive English Program (IEP) within Missouri S&T’s Applied Language Institute.

Students who enroll in an IEP must complete that program to the satisfaction of its director and academic coordinator (i.e. satisfy all graduation requirements) before they are allowed to enroll in full-time academic coursework. A student enrolled in an IEP may simultaneously enroll for a part-time academic course load with the approval of his or her academic department chair or designate, the director of the intensive English program, and the dean of graduate studies. Students may also submit proof of successful completion of a commission on English language program accreditation (CEA) recognized English as a second language (ESL) program.

International Transfer Students

An international student enrolled in another American college or university is eligible to transfer to Missouri S&T if he or she meets the following criteria:

- has been enrolled full-time at the school he or she was last authorized to attend during the term immediately preceding the transfer or last preceding vacation period
- applies to and is accepted at Missouri S&T
- plans to be a full-time student at Missouri S&T
- is financially able to attend Missouri S&T

International students must

- Pay all expenses while at Missouri S&T. In most departments, financial assistance, in the form of research and/or teaching assistantships, is available to some qualified applicants. International students are encouraged to contact the academic department to apply for these competitive assistantships.
Admission Categories and Graduate Student Classifications

Graduate students at Missouri S&T are admitted or classified in one of the following categories:

Regular Status

Admission as a regular graduate student is normally limited to those who ranked in the upper one-half of their baccalaureate graduating class or who have achieved at least a cumulative 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for the student’s last sixty credit hours of undergraduate coursework. Minimum GPA requirements for particular departments may be set higher; so please consult your prospective department’s website or entry in the areas of study section of this catalog.

Probational Status

Any person not eligible for admission as a regular graduate student may be considered for admission as a probational graduate student. Probational graduate admission is normally limited to those students who ranked in the upper one-half of their baccalaureate graduating class, or who have achieved at least a cumulative 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for their entire undergraduate career, or a 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for their last sixty credit hours of undergraduate coursework. Minimum GPA requirements for particular departments may be set higher, so please consult your prospective department’s website or entry in the areas of study sections of this catalog for more specific information.

Any probational graduate student who subsequently desires to pursue a degree as a regular graduate student may apply to change his or her status from “probational” to “regular.” However, such consideration is not permitted until the probational graduate student has completed a minimum of twelve credit hours of graduate coursework with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. After these initial twelve hours are completed satisfactorily, the probational student may, with the concurrence of his or her advisor, apply for regular student status.

Only those credits completed as a probational graduate student that are subsequently approved by the student’s advisor, department chair, and dean of graduate studies may be applied toward a graduate degree. However, all coursework completed as a probational graduate student, as well as the student’s GRE scores, will be considered relevant to this change-of-status decision. Probational graduate students may retain their probational status for no more than one additional semester after completing their first twelve hours of graduate coursework. Regardless of the student’s admission status, all completed graduate coursework (excluding 5000, 6000, and graduate research) will apply toward the student’s cumulative GPA. Students with probational status are not allowed to register for graduate research credit until the semester in which the minimum of twelve credit hours of graduate coursework that form the proposed schedule on Form 1 will be completed.
Non-degree Status

Any prospective student who wishes to study at the graduate level but who does not intend to pursue a graduate degree or graduate certificate may be considered for admission as a non-degree graduate student. Typically, this category of admission applies to, but is not restricted to, individuals who have a job-related need for a particular graduate-level course. Admission to non-degree graduate student status requires an application form, official transcripts, and an application fee, but neither GRE nor GMAT scores are required. Prospective students seeking admission in this category are encouraged to refer to their prospective department’s website or entry in the areas of study section of this catalog for further department-specific information regarding non-degree status admission requirements.

Non-degree students may enroll in any graduate course as long as they meet the course prerequisite(s). Up to nine hours of graduate coursework taken as a non-degree student may be counted toward a Missouri S&T graduate degree or graduate certificate program, if applicable. Furthermore, if a student initially enrolls as a non-degree student and is subsequently accepted into a graduate degree or graduate certificate program before completing a particular course, that course may be accepted toward the graduate degree program subject to approval by the student’s advisor, department chair, and the dean of graduate studies.

Students who must take particular undergraduate courses due to their different or deficient undergraduate degree, or for any other reason, but who otherwise meet graduate admission requirements are encouraged to apply for graduate admission by the first semester that they plan to take one or more graduate courses. These students must receive permission from their department in order to enroll in these graduate courses.

Dual Enrollment Student Status

Undergraduate students may apply for dual enrollment as both an undergraduate and a graduate student. A student who seeks dual enrollment must submit an application to the office of admissions. Admission for dually enrolled students is granted by the department chair and the dean of graduate studies. Students are eligible to enroll when they have obtained senior status, with a minimum GPA of 3.5 if two semesters remain, 3.0 if in their final semester. Students must declare which courses are to be taken for graduate credit within the first two weeks of the semester. A dually enrolled student must take at least three hours of undergraduate credit from Missouri S&T each semester. Dually enrolled students are limited to sixteen total credit hours per semester, but petitions for additional credit hours will be considered by the dean of graduate studies. Dual enrollment forms are available at http://registrar.mst.edu/media/administrative/registrar/documents/dualenrolled.pdf. If a dually enrolled student fails to meet minimum undergraduate scholastic standards, his or her resulting academic probationary status will be that of an undergraduate and will be evaluated without reference to the student’s grades in his or her graduate course(s).

Grad Track Pathway

Some departments offer a Grad Track Pathway to exceptional undergraduate students for early provisional admission to the master’s degree program. This accelerated program is designed for such students to earn coursework credits toward their master’s degree while completing their bachelor’s degree in a discipline as approved by the prospective graduate program. A Grad Track Pathway is defined by a set of graduate-level courses (no more than nine credit hours) that apply towards the bachelor’s degree and then also towards their associated master’s degree. Please consult your (prospective) department for additional information.

Graduate Student Forms

With the help of their advisors and department chairs, all graduate students must complete and submit a series of forms to the office of graduate studies throughout the course of their degree programs. These forms are used to indicate academic intentions, details of degree programs, membership of advisory committees, and performance on various examinations. All graduate student forms are available online at http://grad.mst.edu/currentstudents/forms/.

Graduate Student Appeals

Graduate students at Missouri S&T have the right to appeal decisions made about their performance or their status. For details regarding the appeals procedure, please refer to the Student Academic Regulations Handbook, available online at http://registrar.mst.edu/academicregs/.

Graduate Student Registration

The graduate student registration guidelines are outlined in Policy Memorandum No. II-20, which is available at http://chancellor.mst.edu/policy/. The policies below are taken directly from that document.

A. Registration Guidelines for All Graduate Degree Candidates

1. Graduate students must remain continuously enrolled each fall and spring semester until the completion of their degree program. Graduate students not using campus resources* during a summer session are not required to be enrolled in that session.

2. Full-time enrollment for graduate students is nine credit hours for each fall and spring semester and three credit hours for a summer session. Graduate students using campus resources will enroll for credits consistent with their usage, as determined by their department and their own needs for credit, but no less than three credit hours each fall and spring semester and summer session prior to meeting degree requirements.

3. Once all requirements have been met, with the exception of the master’s comprehensive exam or final defense and acceptance of the final thesis/dissertation, and the student is using campus resources, one credit hour (charged as outlined on the current fee schedule based on individual residency/program status) of special problems (master’s non-thesis students) or graduate research (master’s thesis/doctoral students) will be considered as full-time enrollment each semester/session until the degree is completed. Students receiving funding may be subject to additional enrollment requirements.

4. When a graduate student takes the master’s comprehensive exam, doctoral qualifying exam, or comprehensive exam, or defends their thesis/dissertation, they must be enrolled on the date of the exam/defense. Failure to do so may invalidate the exam/defense. If the exam/defense occurs during the intercession, then an examination-only fee is appropriate by enrolling in one credit hour of Oral Examination 5040/6040. Intercession, for the purposes of this section, refers to the specific interval of time between the closing date of one academic semester/session and beginning of classes for the academic semester/session that immediately follows.

5. For students who have passed their final defense, the final copy of their thesis/dissertation must be accepted by the Office of Graduate Studies no later than the Friday before the next semester/session begins or they will be required to enroll in at least one credit hour of
graduate research (charged as outlined on the current fee schedule based on individual residency/program status) for the following semester/session. Only one semester/session of enrollment after passing the final defense will be allowed.

6. All graduate teaching and research assistants (GTA/GRA), graduate assistants (GA), graduate instructors, and graduate fellows are required to be enrolled for at least nine credit hours each fall and spring semester and three credit hours each summer session. A one-time only exit semester exemption of full-time enrollment may be allowed, but must be no less than three credit hours.

7. On-campus graduate students conducting off-campus research for credit must obtain advance approval from the department chair and the Office of Graduate Studies.

B. Other Registration Guidelines for Candidates for a Doctoral Degree

1. After passing the comprehensive examination and completing all coursework and residency requirements for the doctoral degree, the student must remain enrolled each fall and spring semester and summer session until completion of the degree. Failure to do so may invalidate the candidacy.

2. Once all requirements have been met, with the exception of the final defense and acceptance of the final dissertation, and the candidate is not using campus resources*, the student may enroll in one credit hour of Continuous Registration, 6050, each semester/session until the degree is completed. Failure to do so may invalidate the candidacy.

3. Once the Continuous Registration Form is approved, registration and billing will be automatic for each semester/session until the degree is completed. Interruption of continuous registration due to failure to comply (e.g., non-payment) may result in the need for readmission under requirements then in effect.

The enrollment requirements do not supersede the minimum requirements of other offices or agencies.

*University resources include but are not limited to: student health, library, recreation facilities, faculty/staff at Missouri S&T, etc.

Graduate Assistantship Permissible Schedules

Graduate students enrolled in a full-time academic program may enroll in no more than sixteen credit hours of coursework during any regular semester and nine credit hours during the summer session, except for those students enrolled in the eighteen-credit-hour MBA core semester. Graduate students who are employed by the university as graduate instructors, teaching fellows, or graduate teaching and research assistants may not exceed a total of eighteen credit hours during a regular semester or nine credit hours for the summer session of combined coursework and employment assignment. The credit-hour equivalent for graduate teaching appointments varies according to how many hours the student teaches. The chart below outlines permissible schedules for graduate instructors, teaching fellows, and graduate teaching and research assistants. The “appointment” column indicates the level of employment assigned to a graduate student. A 0.25 FTE, full-time equivalent, appointment requires approximately ten hours per week of effort; a 0.375 FTE appointment requires approximately fifteen hours per week of effort; a 0.50 FTE appointment requires approximately twenty hours per week of effort; and a 0.75 FTE appointment requires approximately thirty hours per week of effort. Graduate instructors accept the responsibilities of a full-time position that requires forty hours per week of effort. The time commitment of each teaching fellow varies. The “credit hours of coursework” columns indicate the maximum number of academic credit hours in which a student with a particular appointment may enroll during a semester or summer session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appointment</th>
<th>Regular Semester</th>
<th>Summer Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.250 FTE Grad. Asst.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.375 FTE Grad. Asst.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.500 FTE Grad. Asst.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.625 FTE Grad. Asst.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.750 FTE Grad. Asst.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Instructor</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Fellow</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above schedule, any graduate student may enroll for no more than one credit hour in graduate seminar courses in a given semester.

Enrollment Requirements and Funding Structure for Students on GTA/GRA/GA of 0.25 FTE or More

Graduate assistants employed by Missouri S&T as graduate assistants (GA), graduate teaching assistants (GTA), graduate research assistants (GRA), or who receive university or departmental fellowships at the 0.25 FTE or higher level, are expected to enroll in at least nine credit hours per academic semester. Students hired in these positions will pay regular educational fees for the first six hours; the educational fees for up to a total of three hours beyond the first six hours will be covered. This policy is known as the 6/9 rule. All other charges and fees, including the engineering course supplementary fee, are not covered. Furthermore, only courses for the graduate degree that are approved on Forms 1,1-A, or 5,5-A, or prerequisites for these courses, shall be covered by the 6/9 rule.

All graduate funding is subject to change.

Enrollment Requirements and Funding Structure for Doctoral Students on GTA/GRA/GA of 0.375 FTE or More

Doctoral graduate assistants employed by Missouri S&T as graduate assistants (GA), graduate teaching assistants (GTA), graduate research assistants (GRA), or who received university or departmental fellowships at the 0.375 FTE or higher level are expected to enroll in at least nine credit hours per academic semester. Doctoral students hired in these positions will have educational fees and supplemental fees covered for those courses in their primary program of study. All other charges and fees are not covered. Furthermore, only on-campus courses for the graduate degree that are approved on Forms 5 and/or 5-A shall be covered.

Students pursuing a doctoral degree program after a master’s degree program may receive four years of tuition and supplemental fee coverage. Students pursuing a doctoral degree program directly after a bachelor’s degree program may receive five years of tuition and supplemental fee coverage.
Funding is only available for a student’s primary program of study. Additional programs are ineligible. If a student changes their primary program, funding will only be available for the total years of coverage listed above and no longer, even if the change results in a longer degree completion time frame.

All graduate funding is subject to change.

Enrollment Requirements and Funding Structure for Master’s Students in Non-Doctoral Granting Departments on GTA/GRA/GA of 0.375 FTE or More

Master’s students in non-doctoral granting departments employed by Missouri S&T as graduate assistants (GA), graduate teaching assistants (GTA), graduate research assistants (GRA), or who received university or departmental fellowships at the 0.375 FTE or higher level are expected to enroll in at least nine credit hours per academic semester. Master’s students in non-doctoral granting departments hired in these positions will have educational fees and supplemental fees covered for those courses in their primary program of study. All other charges and fees are not covered. Furthermore, only on-campus courses for the graduate degree that are approved on Forms 1 and/or 1-A shall be covered. Master’s students eligible for the funding can receive two years of tuition and supplemental fee coverage.

Funding is only available for a student’s primary program of study. Additional programs are ineligible. If a student changes their primary program, funding will only be available for the total years of coverage listed above and no longer, even if the change results in a longer degree completion time frame.

All graduate funding is subject to change.

Grading System for Graduate Students

Grades in graduate courses, with the exception of the below listed pass/fail courses, are A, B, C, and F. “A” is an honor grade and indicates outstanding work. “B” means that the work is entirely satisfactory. “C” means that the work will be considered satisfactory, to a limited extent, in fulfilling the requirements for advanced degrees. “F” means that the student has not earned credit for the course. 6050, 5080/6080, 5085/6085, and graduate research grades are satisfactory (S) and unsatisfactory (U). Grades of “S” and “U” are also permitted for courses numbered 5000, 5010, 6000, and 6010. For ongoing graduate research, a delayed grade (DL) can be used. Delayed grades are sometimes assigned to students enrolled in graduate research until all of the research has been satisfactorily completed and the thesis or dissertation is successfully defended. Delayed grades may be changed to “S” upon satisfactory completion of the research or “U” if the research is not satisfactorily completed.

The grade of incomplete (I) is given only at the end of a semester or session in which the student is prevented from completing a course due to sickness or unavoidable absence within the last four weeks of a semester or session (three weeks of class plus finals week). Incomplete grades can be assigned only if the student had earned a passing grade in the course up to the time of such sickness or unavoidable absence. Effective Winter 2001, students must complete the work in which they are deficient within one year from the close of the semester in which the Incomplete (I) grade was recorded. Failure to do so will cause the incomplete grade to be changed automatically to an “F” or a “U.” Effective Fall 1992, a student may not withdraw from a course in which he or she receives a grade of incomplete.

GPA Requirements for Graduate Students

In order to earn a graduate degree or graduate certificate, all students must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in all graduate work taken at Missouri S&T. Master’s and doctoral students must also achieve a GPA of 3.0 or higher for all graduate courses listed on the plan of study (Form 1 for master’s students and Form 5 for doctoral students). No substitutions may be made on the plan of study for courses in which the student has earned less than a B grade. All graduate students are encouraged to maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at all times, and certain departments may even require this minimum GPA. In cases where a graduate student repeats a course, both the original and repeat grades will be used in calculating the student’s GPA, and both will appear on the student’s transcript.

If the semester graduate GPA falls below 3.0 the student will be placed on probation for the following semester. If the graduate GPA is not 3.0 or above in the following semester that coursework is taken, the student shall no longer be a candidate for a graduate degree or certificate from Missouri S&T.

Course Time Limits

All graduate credit will only be valid if earned within the previous ten years, with no possible extension. This ten-year time limit does not apply to graduate credit that has been used toward a previously awarded degree or certificate.

Graduate Learning Outcomes

The Graduate Learning Outcomes for Missouri University of Science and Technology as required by the Higher Learning Commission are listed below:

1. Knowledge: an ability to apply knowledge of subject matter within their field of study
2. Communication: an ability to communicate effectively within their field of study
3. Critical Thinking: an ability to engage in productive critical thinking within their field of study
4. Professional Development: an ability to develop professionally within their field of study.