Rutgers ECE Combined BS/MS Information Session

Waheed U. Bajwa

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Rutgers University–New Brunswick, NJ USA
✉️ ECEGradDirector@soe.rutgers.edu

ECE Graduate Program Office
November 13, 2023
Outline

1. Why a Master’s Degree?

2. Why the Combined BS/MS Option?

3. Next Steps for Interested Students
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1 Why a Master’s Degree?

2 Why the Combined BS/MS Option?

3 Next Steps for Interested Students
Are We Moving the Goalpost?

A BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering alone will continue to serve many of the students rather well.
NO! A BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering alone will continue to serve many of the students rather well.
BUT ...
There are several reasons for why a student might consider pursuing an MS degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering.
Reason 1: Intellectual Growth
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Reason 2: Higher Likelihood of Job Satisfaction
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Reason 3: Higher Lifetime Earning Potential
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SHOW ME THE MONEY
Outline

1 Why a Master's Degree?

2 Why the Combined BS/MS Option?

3 Next Steps for Interested Students
A Rutgers MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering degree offers one of the **best value for your time and tuition dollars**
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• When properly planned, many BS/MS students need only one more year of classes beyond their BS graduation to obtain the MS degree
• The department offers grader positions, teaching assistantships (TAs), and graduate assistantship (GAs) to well-qualified students
  • A TA/GA position comes with $17,667 stipend per semester, full tuition remission, and healthcare benefits
• The Dean’s Office will give a one-time, $1,000 scholarship to any BS/MS student enrolled in full-time graduate study in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025
Possible Paths to a One-Year MS Degree

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The MS degree requires completion of **30 credits with GPA ≥ 3.0**

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But BS/MS students are allowed to use up to a maximum of **12 unused undergraduate credits†** towards completion of the MS degree

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Possible Paths to a One-Year MS Degree

Scenario 1: Senior needing 18 credits to graduate with the BS degree

• Instead of 9 credits per semester, enroll in 15 credits per semester
• Apply the 12 additional unused credits towards the MS degree

Scenario 2: Senior needing 24 credits to graduate with the BS degree

• Instead of 12 credits per semester, enroll in 15 credits per semester
• Apply the 6 additional unused credits towards the MS degree
• Engage in two summers of for-credit internships (3-credits each)†

Scenario 3: Senior needing 24 credits to graduate with the BS degree

• Instead of 12 credits per semester, enroll in 18 credits per semester
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Additional Benefits of Being a BS/MS Student

• You do not need to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
• You do not need to pay any admission application fees
• You do not need to write an admission essay
• You may not need recommendation letters
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Plan Courses for the Senior Year

An MS degree helps you specialize in an area. So prepare an appropriate plan for the unused undergraduate courses in consultation with

- The Graduate Director
- The Undergraduate Director
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List of MS Specialization Areas

1. Communications
2. Signal and Information Processing
3. Machine Learning
4. Systems and Controls
5. Computer Engineering
6. Software Engineering
7. Solid State Electronics

† Pre-approval from the ECE Graduate Program Office is required for a cross-cutting specialization.
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List of MS Specialization Areas

1. Communications
2. Signal and Information Processing
3. Machine Learning
4. Systems and Controls
5. Computer Engineering
6. Software Engineering
7. Solid State Electronics
8. Cross-cutting Specialization†

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Be Aware of the Important Dates

- **Middle of November**: start of the application process
- **End of December**: initial admission decisions are made
- **January – August**: continuous review based on grades earned

*Well-qualified students interested in being considered for the TA position must submit their applications by March 1 at the latest*
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   - GPA ≥ 3.0 and < 3.2: One **strong** letter needed for admission
   - GPA ≥ 2.8 and < 3.0: Two **strong** letters needed for admission
I have a Master degree in Engineering!