

WPI Department of Biomedical Engineering

BME Course Information for New Students

General Information for All BME Graduate Degrees:

- Most graduate courses are 3 credits, unless otherwise indicated. Only advanced/graduate courses can be applied to graduate degrees (usually 500-level). 4000-level coursework can also be counted toward BME graduate degrees. Many 4000-level courses are 2 credits (instead of 3 credits).
- Full-time students typically register for a minimum of 9 credits each semester.
- Many courses are offered every year, others are offered every other year. If a course is in the catalog, but does not appear in the AY 2020-2021 schedule, it may be taught the following year.
- Course descriptions and complete program information can be found in the WPI Graduate Catalog, which is published online: www.wpi.edu/+gradcat
- In order **to graduate**, you must fulfill all course and research requirements for the degree, and submit a completed “Graduate Student Application for Degree” to the WPI Registrar’s Office by the deadlines indicated at the top of the form. The form along with the tracking document must be approved and signed by your Academic Advisor and the BME Graduate Program Coordinator. The form can be found at the WPI Registrar’s website under “[Forms](#)”. Submission deadlines can also be found on the Registrar’s website.
- Students completing a PhD dissertation or Master’s thesis must submit the final, approved dissertation/thesis document online prior to the Registrar’s deadline for that term.
- Students must be registered for AT LEAST ONE credit during the term in which the final, committee-approved thesis or dissertation is submitted to the Registrar. Students should plan to register for one research credit during the semester in which they defend their thesis or dissertation.

Registering for Directed Research, Thesis, MS Project and Dissertation Credits:

- Registering for research credits (Lab Rotation, MS Thesis, Directed Research, Projects, etc) requires approval of a faculty advisor who will supervise your work. The faculty mentor will assign a grade for completed research project credits.
 - Directed research/laboratory rotation = BME 598/BME 698
 - Master’s thesis = BME 599
 - PhD dissertation = BME 699 (only for students who have passed the PhD Qualifying Exam)
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- To register for research credits, submit a Graduate Student Project Registration Form on the Registrar’s website: <https://fs28.formsite.com/webteamwpiedu/grad-project-reg/index.html>
- Registering for MS Project (BME597) requires two-steps:
Step 1: Fill out the MS Project declaration form and email it to: BMEGradProgram@wpi.edu
Step 2: Register your project with Registrar's Office. Use the **Graduation Project Registration Form**. Register as Independent Studies (ISG). Enter the full name of BME faculty project advisor; Topic code is **BME**; Title should be indicated as “BME Master’s Project”

Course Distribution Requirements (Definitions and Examples):

Biomedical Engineering – Any advanced BME course (4000- or 500-level), unless otherwise noted in the catalog. One **important exception** – BME 560, BME 562 and BME 564 count for Life Science credit and NOT BME or Engineering credit.

Life Science – BME 560. Physiology for Engineers, BME 562. Laboratory Animal Surgery, BME 564: Cell and Molecular Biology for Engineers, or any advanced cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry or physiology course. Graduate biology courses are taught at an advanced level. Instructors assume a **STRONG** biology background.

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Advanced Mathematics – Any graduate-level Mathematical Sciences course (e.g., MA 501: Engineering Mathematics). Students are strongly encouraged to take a statistics course (e.g., MA 511: Applied Statistics for Engineers and Scientists, or BB 553: Experimental Design and Statistics in the Life Science).

Electives - Any graduate-level course (BME, engineering, life science, math, or other). Many students fulfill electives by taking courses in the WPI School of Business (e.g., MIS 576: Project Management).

Responsible Conduct of Science – BB 551: Research Integrity in the Sciences fulfills this requirement.