

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the MAE BS/Master (4+1) Program**

*When should I apply to the MAE BS/Master (4+1) Program?*

Apply in your senior year. Applications submitted before Senior year may not be evaluated. Apply through the online portal.

*When will I get a decision on my application?*

The applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Since you must have at least a 3.2 GPA at the time of BS graduation, decisions may be delayed for those with borderline GPAs. Nevertheless, you can expect a decision by the end of January of your senior year.

*When can I take MAE graduate courses?*

MAE graduate courses are not recommended to be taken before Senior year, except for special cases. You do not need to be accepted into the Graduate Program to take graduate courses, but SPNs are needed, so apply through the form on the “Graduate Resources, Forms, and Useful Links” page on the department website. SPNs will NOT be given if the GPA is below 3.2 or if more than 17 total credits are being registered for, including the requested graduate course(s).

*Where can I find the MAE graduate courses offered?*

See the Rutgers Schedule of Classes.

*Can I take the online section of a graduate course?*

Undergraduates cannot take the online sections of graduate courses, except during the Summer session, if offered.

*How many graduate courses taken as an undergraduate can be transferred to the Master's Program?*

Normally, 12 credits can be transferred, allowing the student to graduate with the Master's degree one year after BS graduation. Only B grades and above can be transferred. Graduate courses counted towards the BS degree cannot be transferred. Courses can only be transferred after the student has taken 9 credits enrolled as a graduate student. All credit transfers need the submission of the Transfer of Credit Application found on the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies forms website.

*Who should I see with questions about the graduate program?*

All undergraduates should see their Undergraduate Director, their assigned MAE Advisor, or their JJ Slade Research Advisor with specific questions and advice. The

Graduate Program Director will offer 1-2 Info Sessions per semester (check your email). Generally, the Graduate Program Director will only answer questions during group settings or during office hours (only if the student has already seen the Undergraduate Director). Other questions can be directed to the Graduate Administrator (only if the student has already seen the Undergraduate Director).

*Is there a Graduate Handbook that I can view?*

The Graduate Handbook is being revised extensively. The most up-to-date information can be found in the annual Graduate Orientation Slides and Checklists for each graduate degree (see the “Graduate Resources, Forms, and Useful Links” on the department website). There is no Degree Navigator for graduate students.

*How do JJ Slade credits count for the Master’s degree?*

6 JJ Slade credits can be transferred to count for Master’s degree credits. However, they do not count towards the number of required MAE 3-credit courses specified in the Checklists (see the “Graduate Resources, Forms, and Useful Links” on the department website).

*Am I bound to Rutgers if I apply or am accepted to the Rutgers MAE BS/Master (4+1) Program?*

No.

*Is there a recommendation about taking the ME Seminar?*

Because the ME seminar is only offered during Fall and Spring semesters, it is recommended to take 1 credit ME Seminar in the Senior year, if you aim to graduate with the Master’s degree in 1 year. Doing so will allow you to complete 3 credits worth of ME Seminar to count towards degree requirements.

*Why is it called 4+1? Am I guaranteed to graduate in 1 year?*

1 year is the average time for a graduate student in the program to finish with a Master's degree. Your status will change to graduate student when you are officially in the Program. Please view this as a hard reset because graduate school protocols and expectations are often completely different from undergraduate ones. Since a Master’s project (M.Eng.) or Master’s Thesis (M.S.) needs to be completed, some students may take longer. Note that if you miss the May graduation date, you can complete degree requirements over the summer and apply for the following October degree (without having to register for that Fall semester).

*Updated March 2025 by S. Tse*