Preparing for Graduate School

- Thinking about graduate school
  - How is graduate study different from undergraduate study?
  - Exploring graduate program options: coursework only or research masters? PhD interests?
  - Exploring graduate schools options: What to consider when selecting schools
  - Developing a timeline for application

- UW CEE Graduate Program
  - Application deadline: December 15, 2018 (for Autumn 2019 admission)

Application Check List

- Application deadline (December 15, 2018)
- Online application form (select master’s thesis, master’s non-thesis, or PhD preference)
- BSCE graduates applying to CEE will apply for Master of Science in Civil Engineering (MSCE)
  - There are two options: the research-based thesis MSCE and the coursework based non-thesis MSCE
  - If you are unsure which program to apply to select the MSCE Thesis and you will be able to indicate you are interested in the MSCE Non-thesis should you not be admitted to the research program
- GPA (minimum 3.0)
- Test scores (GRE) - UW CEE Dept. requires General GRE
- Personal statement
- Recommendation letters (2-3 are required for UW CEE)
- UW CEE Dept. requires unofficial transcripts to be uploaded in online application
- FAFSA application (priority deadline is January 15, 2018)
- Writing samples or portfolio (for some programs; not required for UW CEE Dept.)
- Resume or C.V. (for some programs; optional for UW CEE Dept.)
- Interviews (for some programs; not required for UW CEE Dept.)

Admissions Timeline

- Junior year or 1.5-2 years before entering
  - Research areas of interest & schools
  - Develop relationships with potential recommenders
  - Become familiar with admissions process/criteria

- Senior year or 1-1.5 years before entering
  - Request letters of recommendation from faculty. Provide recommenders with plenty of time (ideally 2-6 months) and sufficient information about yourself. Follow up before the deadline and afterwards with a thank you.
  - Prepare for and register for GRE exam
  - Take GRE (by end of November for UW CEE December 15th application deadline)
  - Write personal statement (have statement reviewed, then revise and finalize)
  - Check on deadlines and review what’s needed (may include transcript, research statement, etc.)
  - If research track, may be good to reach out to faculty in areas of research interest to discuss
  - Check with schools before deadlines to ensure applications are complete
  - Submit FAFSA by January 15th deadline
  - Keep track of acceptances, wait lists, rejections
  - Notify schools of your decision

(Adapted from UW Career Center “Applying to Graduate and Professional Schools” Workshop, http://careers.washington.edu/students/workshops#applyingtograduateschool)
Web Resources

CEE Information for Prospective Students
http://www.ce.washington.edu/prospective/grads/apply.html

Graduate Records Examination (GRE)
www.gre.org

UW Graduate School
www.grad.washington.edu/

UW Office of Educational Assessment (UW and national testing information)
www.washington.edu/oea/services/testing_center/

Graduate School Information Guide (samples)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the deadline for applying to the UW CEE Department?
A. December 15th

Q: Is there a minimum GRE score required for the UW CEE Department?
A. No. (However, weak scores may not be competitive for admission or funding. Admitted student average GRE scores posted on the website)

Q: Can I get a master's in structural (or environmental, etc.) engineering?
A. Applicants must select an area of specialization (from among the department's six areas of emphasis when applying); however, the degree earned is a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (or PhD track) and does not designate the specialty.

Q. How much does it cost to attend the UW CEE Graduate Program?
- Research-based MSCE: The 2017-2018 resident tuition (operating fee) rate for a full-time graduate student in the department is approximately $6,037 per quarter, (plus student fees). State tuition rates will likely be higher next year. Current tuition rates (Tier III) are available at: www.washington.edu/students/sfs/sao/tuition/.
- Non-thesis MSCE: the cost for students in the non-thesis program is $595 per credit, plus student fees. The cost for the 42 credit non-thesis master’s degree is about $24,990 (comparable to projected state tuition rates for four quarters).

Q: How do I apply for funding for graduate school?
A. Besides student financial aid, students may apply separately for fellowships available through professional organizations, industry, and outside sources. Below are some resources.

GradSchools.com:
http://www.gradschools.com/article-category/financial-aid-34

Graduate Funding Information Service (GFIS), UW Libraries:
http://commons.lib.washington.edu/services/gfis

Additional information regarding fellowships is available on the UW Graduate School website:
http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/fa/fellowships.shtml

Please note that funding application processes differ by institution.

Questions? For CEE Graduate Program information, contact ceginfo@uw.edu