

## TAMU Ocean Engineering FAQs

### APPLYING

Where do I apply? Applications should be submitted here:

<https://engineeringcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/>

What is the criteria for admission to the Ocean Engineering graduate program? An Engineering degree with a 3.0 GPA is best. Other concentrations may be considered but may also require leveling courses, if admitted.

Can I get a waiver of the application fee? The application fee cannot be waived. If you have a special circumstance, your request may be considered.

Is the GRE required? Ocean Engineering graduate programs do not require the GRE. However, if you have taken the exam, we ask that you self-report your scores in your application.

Is it a must to contact a potential mentor or advisor before submitting my formal application to the PHD program? No. Admits to the PHD program are expected to develop relationships with the faculty during their first year, in order to connect common research goals. You do not need to contact a potential mentor in advance. However, you are welcomed to reach out to the faculty in advance. Either way, admittance to our program will provide you opportunities to pursue further development of your research interests. The first year advisor is Dr. David H. Allen, Professor and Director of Grad Programs.

What is the deadline to apply? If your background aligns well with our program, please submit your application at <https://engineeringcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/> The deadline for Fall24 admittance is April 15, 2024 but you are encouraged to apply early. We usually begin reviewing Fall applications in February. At that time, we are also considering departmental funding offers for those admitted. Usually, by April, we have already made one round of departmental funding offers.

### COSTS AND FUNDING

What funding opportunities exist? The OE Department does offer a significant number of scholarships, but usually not to first year students. The most common form of support in the first year comes from garnering assignment as a grad assistant which is a paid position in support of teaching. The majority of those grad assistantships are located at the Galveston campus. We are a dual campus program, so you are considered a main campus student taking coursework at the branch campus.

Financial Aid opportunities should be pursued through TAMU financial aid, found here:

<https://financialaid.tamu.edu/>

How much does the OE program cost? The tuition and fees cost for the OE program are approximated here: <https://tuition.tamu.edu> . Engineering grad students must also pay the \$2565 program fee each semester. There are additional fees/deposits due for first year students. Estimated per semester cost for non-residents is \$11232. Estimated Resident tuition/fees is \$6466. These costs include the graduate program fee but do not necessarily reflect all fees that may be due.

What is the health insurance requirement and cost? *All international students* are required to have health insurance while in attendance and that is charged to your student bill at an approximated rate of \$1009 per semester. You may see more about this here: <https://global.tamu.edu/iss/health-and-safety/health-insurance>

*Domestic graduate students* can pursue insurance through: <https://tamu.myahpcare.com/>

Are international students eligible for any tuition assistance? Yes, there are opportunities to receive the non-resident tuition waiver (through scholarship or employment). OE offers a one-time, \$1500 fellowship that carries the waiver. The requirement is to be in a research oriented program and attend coursework at Galveston campus.

## **ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Are OE PhD programs funded? The most common form of support in the first year comes from garnering assignment as a grad assistant which is a paid position in support of teaching (GAT). The majority of those grad assistantships are located at the Galveston campus. We are a dual campus program, so you are considered a main campus student taking coursework at the branch campus.

During your first year, you have the opportunity to develop relationships with OE faculty, who, at that time, may invite you to join their research group. Doing so would secure a Graduate Researcher assistantship (GAR).

Both GAT and GAR positions currently pay a monthly stipend plus almost all tuition and fees. Both positions usually carry a non-resident tuition waiver that allows for reduced cost of tuition and fees. The GAT position will require you to have a successful ELP score on a standardized test and take specialized teaching training (provided by the University).

How can I get an assistantship? The department has a limited number of assistantships available. teaching assistantships are decided during the admissions process. Decisions for researcher assistantships in faculty labs are made when faculty/student research connections are made during students' programs.

Are there special requirements for an assistantship? If you are selected for a graduate assistant teaching (GAT) position where you support the academic program, you will be required to be proficient in English. International students must have a successful ELP score on a standardized test. All GATS must take specialized teaching training (provided by the University).

Can I get a waiver for tuition and fees? Full-time registered International/non-resident Graduate Assistants may receive a waiver that allows payment of tuition and fees at the resident rate, after full-time registration. There is no waiver available for non-employee students.

Can I work other jobs at the University in addition to my assistantship? Yes and no. No, International students cannot work more than 20 hours per week. Yes, domestic students can request up to 9 additional paid hours per week through the OE payroll office.

As an employee, can I get health insurance for my spouse? If you sign up for employer- based insurance, you can include your spouse, but cost will be higher. If you chose not to sign up for employer-based insurance, please see here for dependent coverage info: <https://global.tamu.edu/iss/health-and-safety/health-insurance/dependents>

## **REGISTRATION**

How many hours do I need to take? Registration of 9 hours each Fall/Spring and 6 hours in Summer are the minimal requirement to maintain full-time graduate student status.

How do I register? Please log in to the registration portal through HOWDY.

What courses are required? We do not have a required curriculum. You are expected to complete 30 hours (MS) or 64 hours (PhD with MS) or 96 hours (PhD without MS). The courses are selected in conjunction with your faculty advisor.

## **POST ADMISSION**

How do I get my I20? I20s are ordered here: <https://global.tamu.edu/iss/students/get-status>

Am I required to have Tuberculosis screening? Please see link below regarding Tuberculosis screening. If you are exempt, you must still complete the form and indicate exemption then submit as annotated on the form.

<https://shs.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Tuberculosis-Screening-January-2023.pdf>

Could the MS be completed earlier than in the two years scheduled?

The Ocean Engineering MS-non-thesis is designed to be completed within 2 years. It is a 30 hour program with a report due at completion. Aggressive coursework completion could result in completion earlier than 2 years. For instance, taking 12 hours each Fall and Spring then 6 hours in summer could result in completion within one year. However, this is not necessarily recommended due to the course load. 9 Hours of coursework in each fall and spring is considered full time.