

# BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

## Graduate Programs

The Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering offers Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Biosystems Engineering. Specific research areas include Machine System Engineering, Bioprocessing and Biotechnology, Food Engineering, and Environment & Natural Resources.

## Program Information

BAE provides excellent laboratory and computer facilities for students to explore research and design in such areas as bioprocessing and food engineering, machine vision, sensor and control technology, waste management and utilization, hydrology, water quality, porous media flow, and intelligent systems for agricultural machine design and production.

Research projects are supported by the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station and by state, federal and private grants, and contracts. Well-trained faculty members, many of whom are registered professional engineers with research, consulting, and design experience, guide the graduate students' activities and plan programs to meet students' needs.

Graduate students design experiments and special equipment to conduct their work. They are expected to demonstrate, by supporting research or by designs, the ability to identify a problem, define alternatives, propose a solution, organize a design or an experimental investigation, manage the project to completion and report the results through peer-reviewed papers and professional presentations.

## Graduate Admission Requirements

Admission is competitive based on GPA(s) from previous degree(s), TOEFL/IELTS (for international students), statement of interests, experience, and recommendations. The GRE is not required but often considered for graduate assistantship.

### Minimum BAE Program Requirements:

- Previous Degree:
  - An undergraduate degree in Biosystems Engineering or other Engineering from an ABET accredited or equivalent program (ABET Accredited Programs (<https://main.abet.org/aps/accreditedprogramsearch.aspx>)).
  - Students with undergraduate degrees in other disciplines or closely related fields, such as chemistry, physics, mathematics, biological sciences, agricultural sciences, and environmental sciences are also invited to apply to the BAE graduate program. Such applications are evaluated on an individual basis. Completion of additional credit hours of undergraduate courses (such as engineering sciences and advanced biology) may be required before a BAE graduate Plan of Study is developed.
- Grade Point Average (GPA): GPA > 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Equivalent grades are required from an international university.
- Prior research and publication experience for a Ph.D. application are preferred.

## Degree Requirements

Each graduate student follows an approved plan of study and is supervised by his/her advisory committee. The Plan of Study is designed to satisfy the individual goals of the student, while conforming to the general requirements of the BAE Department and the Graduate College.

### Master of Sciences (MS)

- **Thesis Option** – MS Students with a Thesis Option will complete a thesis reporting original research. Thirty (30) credit hours are required for the degree, which consists of 23 credits of coursework (including 9 credits of BAE courses), one (1) credit of BAE 5501 BAE Graduate Seminar, and six (6) credits of satisfactory research hours (BAE 5000).
- **Non-Thesis with a Formal Report** – MS Students with a Non-Thesis Option and a Formal Report should complete a total of 32 credit hours, which consist of at least 28 credits of coursework (including 6 credits of BAE courses), one (1) credit of BAE 5501 BAE Graduate Seminar, and 1-3 credits of BAE 5010 Advanced Topics in Biosystems Engineering.
- **Non-Thesis Option** – MS Students with a Non-Thesis Option are required to complete a total of thirty-two (32) credit hours of coursework (including six credits of BAE courses and one-credit of BAE 5501 BAE Graduate Seminar).

### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

- **Ph.D. Degree After MS Option** – Ph.D. students are required to take a minimum total of 44 credit hours beyond an MS degree. This includes a minimum of 30 credits of BAE 6000 Thesis Research and 14 credits of coursework. The coursework is required to include at least 6 credits of BAE courses, including one (1) credit of BAE 6101 Teaching Practicum and one (1) credit of BAE 5501 BAE Graduate Seminar.
- **Ph.D. Degree After BS Option** – Ph.D. students are required to take a minimum 74 credits beyond a BS degree. This includes a minimum of 36 credits of BAE 6000 Thesis Research and 38 credits of coursework. The coursework should include at least six (6) credit hours of BAE courses, including one (1) credit hour of BAE 6101 Teaching Practicum and two (2) credit hours of BAE 5501 BAE Graduate Seminar.