



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Department of Civil, Coastal, & Environmental Engineering Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) Program: BSCE→MSCE

The Department of Civil, Coastal, & Environmental Engineering allows well-qualified undergraduates to follow an “Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s” (ABM) study plan. Under ABM, up to **six credit hours of graduate coursework** can count towards **both** the BSCE (as Technical Electives) **and** the MSCE degrees, so that the MSCE degree is earned faster than usual. This applies to both thesis and non-thesis degrees. (The ABM coursework must individually satisfy the requirements of **both** degrees.)

Example: the MSCE degree (thesis option) requires 30 total credit hours (24 credit hours of coursework plus six credit hours of thesis work). ABM students may take up to **six** of the MSCE **coursework** credit hours as Technical Electives for their BSCE degree, leaving only 18 further credit hours of coursework plus six credit hours of thesis work needed to earn the MSCE degree.

Eligibility requirements:

- Must have at least **3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA** (at USA), and
- Must have completed at least **90 credit hours** (i.e., senior status, within two semesters of BSCE graduation), and
- Must have completed at least **30 credit hours at USA**.

A student who later withdraws or is dismissed from the ABM program may not count graduate coursework towards both degrees. Graduate courses will only be counted towards the MSCE degree if the undergraduate student earns an “A” or “B” grade.

ABM students must be registered for full-time study and must complete all Master’s degree requirements within three semesters of the semester in which they were admitted to the Graduate School. An exception for a fourth semester may be granted where an additional semester is required for final revisions to and submission of a defended thesis. Exceptions to the ABM policy are at the discretion of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Procedure:

If you satisfy these eligibility requirements, and wish to be considered for the ABM program:

1. Discuss ABM with the Department Chair and/or your advisor, for course planning;
2. Complete an undergraduate Advising Form at <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/engineering/currentstudents/resources/engineeringadvisingformpdf> incorporating the ABM courses you have chosen;
3. Complete and print **both** the ABM Declaration form at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/graduateschool/abmdeclarationformpdf> **and** the form requesting authorization to use graduate courses at https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/registrar/graduate_level_course_for_undergraduate_degree.pdf incorporating the ABM courses you have chosen;
4. Submit these printed forms to the Department Chair for formal approval and routing; and
5. Enroll in the **graduate section (500-level)** of your chosen ABM Technical Elective(s) (note that this will require course overrides).

These 500-level Technical Electives will count towards the MSCE degree after you apply for graduate school (later) and successfully complete at least nine credit hours of graduate courses.