

## MS-EPSE Frequently Asked Questions

### What is unique about the EPSE program?

EPSE is a certified Professional Science Master's program-- the first of its type in the United States to address critical workforce needs in power engineering and power electronics. It prepares graduates by ensuring they have the needed skills that employers are looking for in their workforce. Hence, the program has a strong professional skill development component in addition to a comprehensive technical core in electric power engineering.

### What are professional skills and why are they important?

Professional skills include communications, project management, and presentation techniques. Training in these areas creates a graduate who is in high demand by employers.

### Can you review my GRE and/or TOEFL scores and tell me if I am eligible for this program?

Please note that the Expected GRE and TOEFL scores are posted at:

<https://www.ece.ncsu.edu/graduate/howtoapply>.

The TOEFL or IELTS test must have been taken within two years of the date of anticipated admission.

Please visit the website for the most up-to-date information.

<https://www.ece.ncsu.edu/grad/masters/epse/>

The EPSE faculty and staff cannot respond to questions regarding your admittance to the program. You must submit the whole application package to the Graduate School for the review committee's evaluation and recommendations.

### Do I need to take the GRE?

Most applicants are required to submit GRE scores. NC State ECE graduates from the BS program do not need to submit scores.

### If I do not have a BS-EE, can I still apply to the program?

Yes, we accept students with a BS from an accredited school. The requirements are outlined on our website at <https://www.ece.ncsu.edu/graduate/msepse>. The main requirements are as follows:

Students who do not have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in electrical engineering must complete the following two sets of courses.

Completion of the following ECE courses (or electrical engineering courses equivalent to) ECE 200, ECE 211, ECE 220, ECE 301, and ECE 305

You need to take these ECE prerequisites and pass with a B or higher prior to applying to the EPSE program.

Applicants must also complete the following courses or equivalent courses:

- ✓ three semesters of calculus,
- ✓ one semester of probability/statistics,
- ✓ two semesters of physics, and
- ✓ one semester of chemistry.

**Is there funding available for students in the program?**

Yes, currently there are competitive fellowships available for one academic year. The fellowship review period begins in late January. A fellowship is determined using a combination of your GPA, academic work, and statement of purpose. Fellowships range from \$2,000 to \$6,000 annually.

NOTE: Acceptance into the EPSE program is required for fellowship consideration.

**Can International students apply for a fellowship?**

Yes, all students are considered for a fellowship. You do not need to apply for the fellowship separately.

**Is this a full-time program?**

Yes, the on-campus program is a full-time program. However, the online program can be part-time.

**What type of jobs are students getting after graduation?**

Power system design, power, and protection engineers are examples of positions accepted by EPSE graduates. Companies that sponsor our program and hire our students include Siemens, ABB, Duke Energy, Schweitzer, Black and Veatch, Alstom, and other utilities.

**Is this a thesis-based program?**

The EPSE program offers a hands-on capstone project instead of a thesis option. This is a real world industry-sponsored project that students select and complete as part of their coursework, ensuring that students are building relationships as well as their skills and knowledge about specific areas in industry. Students work with industry mentors and expert faculty to design and execute the project over two semesters (fall and spring), while learning and applying project management and other professional skills to the project.

**How long does it take to complete the MS-EPSE program?**

Typically, it takes a year and a half to complete the degree program, including the capstone project. It is possible to finish sooner, and each request to do so requires careful review with the Program Director.

Online students normally take 1-2 classes per semester. The only stipulation is you must have all coursework complete within 6 years of the first semester for which you registered.

**Are there any additional certifications available through the EPSE program?**

Yes—students may choose to take select additional coursework to obtain a certification in the Renewable Electric Energy Systems (REES) program. Students need a minimum of 12 credit hours, including one core course and three elective courses, to obtain a REES certificate. This coursework is in addition to the coursework requirements for the MS-EPSE program. More information is available on the [NC State website](#).

**How do I get an internship?**

Students are encouraged to obtain internships, especially during the summer, to gain invaluable career-related experience. The EPSE Education & Industry Coordinator assists students in locating and applying for internships in their field of interest. Faculty and staff also share internship information regarding opportunities throughout the year.

**How much is tuition for the EPSE program?**

The MS-EPSE tuition is based on the number of graduate hours you take each semester. Please review the information available [HERE](#).

**Can I apply for the spring semester?**

Yes—you can apply for the spring or fall semester.

**Can I transfer into EPSE from the MS-EE program at NC State?**

You may transfer into EPSE after the first full semester in the MS-EE program.

**If I do not have GPA of 3 out of 4, am I still eligible for the Graduate program?**

Yes, we can accept students on a conditional basis, known as a provisional admit. During registration, we will suggest coursework that allows you to work on raising your GPA within the degree curriculum.

**Is there a limit on the quantity of courses a student can take along the entire program?**

There is no limit on quantity, however the program requires a total of 30 academic hours for completion.

## Online MS-EPSE Specific

**Can you finish the program through just online access?**

Yes, you can obtain the MS-EPSE degree completely online, including project work.

**How do distance learners submit, test, or troubleshoot device settings for classes such as the protection class or communications and SCADA courses?**

Students are grouped in teams, and we try to make sure there is an on-campus student in each team. If this is not possible, then the teaching assistant provides help for downloading the software to set up the relays etc. during a remote session arranged for the team.

**Can international students register the online program?**

You may apply for the program as an international student if you are sponsored by a well-established and internationally recognized company. Individual international students are typically not accepted into the online program, but we encourage you to apply for the on-campus degree program.

**What happens if my company changes my responsibilities and moves me to another state or overseas?**

You can participate in the online program from anywhere that has a good internet connection.

**Can I take a semester off if I have family issues or work responsibilities expand?**

A leave of absence can be requested and approved at the discretion of the program director.

**How does the Capstone project work for distance learners?**

The capstone project is designed to work with your schedule. Upon acceptance into the program, you will work with your advisor and build a plan that works for you.

**Where do students find employment opportunities?**

Most online students are already employed and hoping to gain knowledge to allow them to move up within their companies. Siemens, GE, Eaton, SEL and Black & Veatch are examples of companies who employ and or hire our students upon graduation. 100% of students in the traditional on-campus program are employed by the time they graduate from the program.