

Civil, Environmental and Sustainable Engineering, PhD

ESCIVILPHD

Program description

Degree awarded: PHD Civil, Environmental and Sustainable Engineering

The faculty in civil, environmental and sustainable engineering offer a graduate program leading to the PhD in civil, environmental and sustainable engineering.

A broad range of theoretical and experimental research programs have been established in civil and environmental engineering to prepare graduate students for careers in professional practice and research. These programs are constantly evolving with the changes in society and the profession, and many are transdisciplinary in nature.

The pattern of coursework applicable to the degree is potentially unique for each student, although it must conform to the general guidelines for subject matter content for the degree, as authorized here and in the program's graduate handbook.

Students are admitted to one of the following specialty areas in engineering:

- environmental
- geotechnical
- hydrosystems
- structural
- sustainable
- transportation

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)

Degree requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

All candidates for the doctorate are required to complete 84 approved graduate credit hours; of these, 30 credit hours can be from the previously awarded master's degree. Additional graduate credit work may be assigned by the graduate supervisory committee, depending on the background of the candidate.

The graduate credit hours must include a minimum of 12 credit hours of research and 12 credit hours of dissertation work.

This degree program also requires written and oral comprehensive examinations and approval of the dissertation prospectus for the student to be eligible for doctoral candidacy.

After entering candidacy, the student completes the research and writes and successfully defends a dissertation.

A final oral examination in the defense of the dissertation work is required for all students.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a master's degree in engineering or a closely related master's degree program from a regionally accredited institution. Exceptionally qualified students with a bachelor's degree may be admitted to the doctoral program.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. three letters of recommendation
5. a resume
6. a personal statement
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of [English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency. Those seeking a teaching assistantship must demonstrate proficiency in spoken English with a score of 55 or better on the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit or a score of 26 on the speaking portion of the TOEFL.

A student whose undergraduate or master's degree is not in civil engineering is required to take appropriate undergraduate or graduate courses as deficiency courses in order to establish a base of knowledge in the discipline. Deficiencies for admission to the program are specified at the time of admission, and details can be obtained from the graduate studies section of the program's website.

Prospective students should note that GRE scores are used in the admission decision. The average scores for those admitted to the graduate programs over the last five years were 732 for MS or MSE and 751 for PhD (GRE General Test) or 157 for MS or MSE and 159 for PhD (GRE revised General Test) in the quantitative section; 1203 for MS or MSE and 1239 for PhD (GRE General Test) or 308 for MS or MSE and 311 for PhD (GRE revised General Test) as combined quantitative and verbal scores. More information regarding how to send official GRE scores to Graduate Admission Services can be found on the [FAQ page](#). ASU does not accept the GRE® General Test at home edition.

Students' credentials for admission are evaluated by the graduate program chair and a committee chaired by the specialty area coordinator.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Application deadlines

Fall

Spring

[expand](#)

[expand](#)

Career opportunities

Graduates in professional practice become civil engineers who typically focus on large projects such as buildings, bridges, subway systems, dams and water supply networks. Graduates also go into research and higher education.

Contact information

[Civil, Environmental and Sustainable Eng Program](#) | CAVC 437
sebe.advising@asu.edu | 480-965-0595

