



# Graduate Student Application Instructions



## Required application materials for MS non-thesis campus and distance applicants:

All documents can be submitted online through the application portal at [sdsmt.edu/Grad-Apply](https://sdsmt.edu/Grad-Apply).\*

- **Completed application form.**
- **\$35.00 application fee**, payable online by credit card.
- **One page statement of purpose**, or personal statement of goals and experience.
- **UNOFFICIAL transcripts from all institutions attended.**
- **UNOFFICIAL English proficiency scores (for international applicants).** Applicants who completed a degree from a country where English is not the official native language are required to submit proof of English proficiency. A variety of test scores are accepted. See the reverse side of this page for minimum score requirements.

\*Students selected for admission will be required to submit an official U.S. transcript or international transcript evaluation and official English proficiency scores (if applicable) prior to enrollment.

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## Required application materials for Thesis MS and PhD (research) applicants:

- **Completed application form**, submitted online at [sdsmt.edu/Grad-Apply](https://sdsmt.edu/Grad-Apply).
- **\$35.00 application fee**, payable online by credit card.
- **One page statement of purpose**, including a statement of **research interests**.
- **OFFICIAL transcripts from all U.S. institutions attended:** Transcripts must be sent to South Dakota Mines by the issuing institution via email or postal mail. If you have attended a South Dakota Regental institution (BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSM&T, SDSU, or USD), you do not need to request these transcripts to be sent to us.
- **Third party foreign transcript evaluation:** Required for all foreign institutions attended. A course-by-course evaluation sent directly by the evaluating entity is required by most programs prior to being considered for research positions and assistantship funding. Transcripts sent directly to us are not accepted in place of the required transcript evaluation. Applicants may apply prior to bachelor's degree completion; evidence of degree completion (along with a final transcript) must be submitted prior to enrollment. For more information, visit [wes.org](http://wes.org) or [ece.org](http://ece.org).
- **Evidence of English proficiency (for international applicants):** Applicants who completed a degree from a country where English is not the official native language are required to submit proof of English proficiency. A variety of test scores are accepted. See the reverse side of this page for minimum score requirements.
- **GRE score report:** Official GRE scores must be submitted through ETS using school code 6652, if required by the program. A department copy is not required. For more information, visit [ets.org/gre](http://ets.org/gre). The GRE is waived for current Mines students and alum.
- **Three letters of recommendation:** Provide the email addresses of three references when you apply online. The recommender will receive an email to complete an online form. Recommendations can also be submitted via email or postal mail, but must be received directly from the recommender.

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**South Dakota Mines Accelerated Applicants:** for current South Dakota Mines students only. The Accelerated MS Advising form must be completed prior to being considered for admission, in addition to the materials listed above. Download the form here: <http://www.sdsmt.edu/Academics/Graduate-Education/Grad-Ed-Forms/> and return it to the Grad Office via email.

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**Non-degree seeking and certificate applicants:** A short admissions application and a copy of your transcripts\* (including evidence of your bachelor's degree) are required. Applicants who completed a degree from a country where English is not the official native language are required to submit proof of English proficiency. (Please note that international students wishing to attend on campus must be degree-seeking for student visa purposes.)

\*Official transcripts are required prior to enrollment.

(See reverse side for additional instructions)

## Deadlines

Application Semester	Thesis MS and PhD	Non-thesis MS	Distance students
Fall (August)	February 1	April 1	August 1
Spring (January)	August 1	October 1	January 1
Summer (May)	Not available	Not available	May 1

**Accelerated master's programs:** The deadline for South Dakota Mines students applying to an accelerated master's program is the start of the final semester of the bachelor's degree.

**Decisions:** Applicant files will only be considered for acceptance when all the required application materials are received. Non-thesis and distance students will typically receive a decision within 2 weeks of receipt of the application. Research applications completed by the deadlines listed will, in most cases, receive a decision within one month or less of the deadline.

**Financial Assistance:** Applicants applying to research programs will be considered for assistantship support based on the complete application package. No further information is required. Funding decisions may be communicated separately from admissions decisions. (Non-thesis MS campus and distance students are typically not considered for assistantships. Construction Engineering & Management and Engineering Management do not offer assistantship funding.)

## General admission requirements

- Academic background: A bachelor's degree in the field of study (or closely related field) is generally required. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is expected for admission, in addition to grades of A or B in courses within the major.
- English proficiency: The minimum scores listed are required for admission to South Dakota Mines. Use school code 6652 to report TOEFL scores.

English Proficiency Test	Minimum score
Duolingo	105
IELTS	6.5
TOEFL – IBT (internet based)	79

## Research admission requirements

- Statement of research interests: State your research interests and relate them to the research of current faculty members that you may be interested in working with. Describe any relevant research, work, or volunteer experience. Explain your career ambitions.
- GRE: Scores of 50% or higher are recommended; strong quantitative scores are expected. For more information regarding the GRE test, visit [ets.org/gre](https://ets.org/gre). Use school code 6652 to report GRE scores.
- Recommendations: Select recommenders who will deliver a report of your best intellectual qualities. The recommenders should be relevant academic references who are familiar with your most recent experience. This should be faculty members (including your advisor) and/or applicable work supervisors. Do not use family members, fellow students, coworkers, high school contacts, or non-academic connections such as athletic coaches or clergy.

Send all application materials to:

**South Dakota Mines  
Graduate Education**

501 East Saint Joseph Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Website: [sdsmt.edu/GraduateEducation](https://sdsmt.edu/GraduateEducation)

Email: [Graduate.Admissions@sdsmt.edu](mailto:Graduate.Admissions@sdsmt.edu)

**Apply today!**