

## Frequently Asked Questions

1) Where can I obtain information about the program?

Program details can be found at [http://web.uri.edu/mcise/graduate/westerly\\_program/](http://web.uri.edu/mcise/graduate/westerly_program/) and the program flyer posted at [http://web.uri.edu/mcise/graduate/westerly\\_program/](http://web.uri.edu/mcise/graduate/westerly_program/).

2) What are the degree requirements for an MS degree in Mechanical Engineering (MCE).

Detailed degree requirements can be found in the MCE Graduate Student Guide. In brief, 30 credits (ten 3 credit courses) are required. One course is required from each of the three core areas of mechanical engineering: solid mechanics, thermal/fluids, and mechanical systems (see handbook for full list). Part-time graduate students may elect to pursue either a thesis or non-thesis option. Thesis students may take 6-9 credits of MCE 599 – MS Thesis Research and 21-14 credits of formal courses. Non-thesis students take 27 credits of formal courses and a 3 credit Special Problem course (MCE 591 or 592), which require a written report and oral presentation

3) What about other engineering disciplines?

While the Westerly program is designed for students pursuing degrees in mechanical engineering, some courses may be appropriate for graduate students in other disciplines. In particular, some courses may be of interest to Ocean or Civil engineering students. While these students are welcome to take courses in Westerly, students in these programs will need to take classes on the Kingston or Narragansett Bay Campus in order to complete their degree requirements. For more information about majors in other engineering disciplines, please contact the appropriate department (see <http://egr.uri.edu> for contact information)

2) How are the Westerly course offerings selected?

Each semester (Fall, Spring and Summer) we plan to continue offering one or two courses. Courses are selected based on student interest, availability of faculty and the need to deliver core courses.

3) How does a new student enroll in the program?

URI allows students to take up to four courses as a non-matriculated (prior to admission) student. Hence, you can begin taking courses at any time and apply for admission to the graduate program at a later date. If you've taken courses at URI in the past, you can enroll in the course through URI enrollment management system (<http://web.uri.edu/ecampus/>). E-campus may ask you to enter a permission number. If so, please contact either the course instructor or Prof. Taggart ([taggart@uri.edu](mailto:taggart@uri.edu)) for a number. If you are new to URI, you can obtain access to e-campus by submitting the following form: [http://web.uri.edu/enrollment/files/Non-Degree\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://web.uri.edu/enrollment/files/Non-Degree_Application_Form.pdf). Before enrolling in your 5<sup>th</sup> course, you must be admitted to either the Mechanical Engineering graduate program (see below for application instructions).

4) What is the tuition?

The Westerly program is administered by URI's Office of Special Program. They offer a special tuition rate (\$2,118 for the 2017-18 academic year) for all students, regardless of state of residency.

5) Where are courses offered?

Courses have been offered every Fall, Spring and Summer term since Fall 2010 in the Westerly, RI area. Starting in the Spring of 2017, our courses have been offered at the Westerly Education Center ([https://www.riopc.edu/page/westerly\\_center/](https://www.riopc.edu/page/westerly_center/))

6) When do courses meet?

Courses typically meet one evening per week, typically 6-8:45 PM. Fall and Spring courses follow the URI academic calendar. Summer course scheduling may vary based on instructor availability.

7) How long does it take to obtain an MS degree?

MS degrees require 30 credits. Hence, if you take 3 courses per year, it will take 3 full years plus one additional semester to complete your degree. Of course, if your schedule allows for more than one course per semester, you can complete your degree more quickly. Also, if you have taken advanced undergraduate or graduate technical courses at another institution, it may be possible to transfer up to two courses and apply them toward your degree.

8) What are the graduate program admission requirements?

For students with engineering degrees from accredited US institutions, the mechanical engineering program does not require GRE exam scores. Admission decisions are based on review of undergraduate transcripts, grades in graduate level courses (if any), a candidate statement of purpose, and two letters of recommendation. Applications are submitted online (see <http://web.uri.edu/graduate-school/apply/>).