

Who is eligible?

Incoming freshmen who qualify for the Engineering Honors Program may also apply to the GradStart Program. To qualify for the Engineering Honors Program, you must:

- Have an overall high school gpa of at least 3.5
- Be admitted to one of the Engineering pre-professional or professional programs

GradStart students are expected to meet these additional criteria:

- Have a minimum science and math gpa from high school of at least 3.5
- Have earned a minimum Math ACT score of 26 (Math SAT score of 650)

You must maintain your eligibility for the Engineering Honors Program (minimum College gpa of 3.5, minimum overall gpa of 3.3) in order to remain active in the GradStart program and eligible for its benefits.

Upperclassmen and transfer students are not eligible for GradStart. However, any student interested in participating in research should contact their Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

How do I apply?

After you submit your undergraduate application to Wayne State University, you can download a GradStart Application from the College of Engineering web page and submit it for consideration. Along with your application, you must submit:

- Two letters of recommendation
- A personal statement (no more than 2 pages) describing your research experiences and your interest in graduate study

The application deadline is April 15. Decisions will be made and students notified by May 15. The GradStart program is highly selective – six places are expected to be made available for each incoming freshman class. However, all students who meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply.

For More Information, Contact:

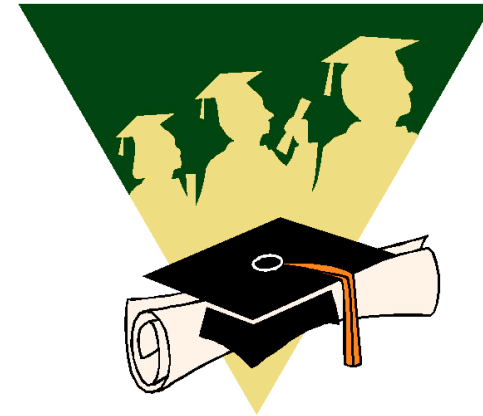
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WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

GRADSTART PROGRAM



**A Research Enrichment Program
for Select Honors Students Interested
in Continuing to Graduate School**

What is GradStart?

GradStart is a unique program in the College of Engineering for select incoming freshmen who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in engineering. You will be exposed to research throughout your undergraduate program, allowing you to gain research experience and a head start on selecting laboratories for your Honors thesis and dissertation project. You will have the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research day presentations, attend national scientific conferences, and contribute to research papers in peer-reviewed journals. GradStart participants are guaranteed admission to the College of Engineering Graduate Program of their choice, with financial support from the department for the first year of graduate study.

Who would benefit from GradStart?

Many top students in high school have identified the goal of earning a PhD in their chosen field. If you are one of these students, and you have decided to pursue your education in engineering, you can take advantage of the GradStart program to give yourself a jumpstart on graduate school and your research career. The added experiences in research that you will receive as a GradStart student will allow you to confirm your decision to continue into a research career, select a research field based on exposure to multiple research areas (rather than by guessing, as is often the case), and provide you with the expertise to excel as you continue your research into graduate school and beyond. Through this program, we hope to develop the next generation of leaders in engineering research right from the start.

What are the “Perks” of being a GradStart student?

- You are guaranteed direct admission to the Engineering PhD program of your choice without submission of GRE scores.
- You will be guaranteed a stipend and tuition support for your first year of full-time graduate study through your graduate department. Continued funding for the remainder of your doctoral program is expected, contingent on satisfactory progress.
- You will be able to participate in the AGRADE program and apply 16 credits of your undergraduate coursework to your doctoral requirements, reducing the number of graduate course credits required for the PhD.
- You will be expected to complete your PhD in a shorter than average time, based on the 16 credits applied through AGRADE and the head start provided on your dissertation research.
- You will earn both Engineering and University Honors for your undergraduate degree.
- You will be identified as one of a select groups of students – the cream of the crop – to future employers.

How is the GradStart program structured?

When you enter the GradStart program in your freshman year, you will begin a program of research rotations from your first semester. The Office of Academic Affairs will assist you in finding a faculty member’s laboratory in which you would like to get involved. The College and your faculty mentor will work with you to identify sources of stipend support for these research rotations – typically through National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates opportunities and University Undergraduate Research Awards.

You will complete three, one-year research rotations in your freshman, sophomore, and junior years – allowing you to explore different fields of research within your chosen major or try your hand at a related field. You will actively participate in each research group, attending research meetings and developing increasingly independent projects. In order to complete your Honors thesis in your senior year, you will select a laboratory from one of your research rotations or another area that interests you.

As a GradStart student, you will submit an AGRADE plan of work in your junior year and will apply to Graduate School in your senior year. You will receive your BS degree in your chosen major after completing your undergraduate requirements. You will then continue with your graduate coursework, qualifying exams, and research according to the policies of your graduate department. In many cases, students will continue their graduate research work in the lab in which they conducted their honors thesis, although this is not required.

Are GradStart students obligated to attend Wayne State for their PhD?

No. While we hope you will find a laboratory at Wayne State that will allow you to meet your research and educational goals, and that you will take advantage of the research head start that you have gained in the labs at Wayne State, we do not want to limit your future choices. You may decide after conducting research for several years that you wish to pursue another career path, or you may discover an opportunity at another university that you can’t pass up. In any case, the experience that you gain in Wayne State’s Engineering GradStart program will serve you well in whatever career you elect to pursue.

What field can I choose for my PhD?

You can choose to apply to any of the doctoral programs available in the College of Engineering, including:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Materials Science
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering