

University Admissions Guidelines for Graduate Students: Bolashak Program

Bolashak finalists must submit:	1. Completed on-line application	2. English language essay	3. University transcript w/ certified English translation	4. Official copies of all diplomas received w/certified English translation	5. Letters of recommendation (3) in English	6. Copies of any awards, certificates, or other document showing skills or talents (with English translation)
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Rankings for universities which offer graduate degrees are quite different than rankings for undergraduate colleges and universities. At the graduate level, it is necessary to understand the ranking of specific "graduate programs" rather than entire university systems. A "Tier 1" university at the undergraduate level may only have a certain number of "Tier 1" graduate programs, and universities which are not highly ranked at the undergraduate level may have a particular graduate program that is very highly ranked. Further, specialties within fields are usually ranked separately (e.g. General Engineering Departments versus programs with Mechanical Engineering specialties). Like undergraduate institutions, each graduate program has its own process for assessing student applications, and does not publish exact requirements for the public to view. In general, however, to gain admittance to a top graduate program in any field of study, it is necessary to have exemplary credentials (grades, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, personal essays, etc.). The following information is based on data from the field of Engineering and specific specializations within this field of study, although exceptions may apply.

Tier 1 Graduate Programs (Top 20)	<i>Like undergraduate universities, Tier 1 graduate programs are the most competitive programs and have very limited slots for acceptances each year. Most accept only a fraction of the qualified students to their university each year, and reject the vast majority of the excellent students who apply (75-90% are not accepted each year).</i>
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Examples include: Top-5 General Engineering Departments (#1 MIT, #2 Stanford, #3 UC-Berkeley, #4 Georgia Institute of Technology, #5 University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign), Top-5 Petroleum Engineering Programs (#1 University of Texas-Austin, #2 Stanford University, #3 University of Tulsa, #4 Texas A&M University, #5 Colorado School of Mines).

<u>Average TOEFL Score</u>	<u>Average GRE Quantitative Score:</u>	<u>Deadlines:</u>	<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Acceptance rates:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
650	770	Usually firm deadlines, Dec/Jan prior to matriculation	All or nearly all A's (5's) must be shown on transcripts.	10-25% of applicants are accepted.	Essay, recommendations, awards must show student is truly exceptional (i.e. top 5% of university). Nearly all students are able to show significant contribution to field, such as published research.

Tier 2 Graduate Programs (Top 50)	<i>Tier 2 graduate programs are excellent programs which are extremely selective in their admissions standards. Like the Tier 1 graduate programs, these graduate programs offer excellent educational instruction, resources, and faculty that are truly outstanding and attract extremely high-achieving students. Faculty include world-renowned scientists and scholars, and the academic rigor of the programs of study is of the highest caliber. Surprisingly to some, many Tier 1 undergraduate universities rank at the Tier 2 level for specific graduate programs (see below).</i>
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Examples include: Top-25 General Engineering Departments (#20 Harvard University, #21 Northwestern University, #22 UC-Santa Barbara, #23 Columbia University, #25 University of Washington), Top-25 Mechanical Engineering Programs (#20 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, #21 University of Maryland, #22 Virginia Tech, #23 Ohio State University, #24 University of Pennsylvania, #25 University of Southern California).

<u>Average TOEFL Score</u>	<u>Average GRE Quantitative Score:</u>	<u>Deadlines:</u>	<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Acceptance rates:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
630	760	Usually firm deadlines, Dec/Jan prior to matriculation	All or nearly all A's and B's (5's and 4's) must be shown on transcripts.	20-50% of applicants are accepted.	Essay, recommendations, awards should demonstrate that student is high achieving. Most students are able to show some contribution to field, such as published research.

Tier 3 Graduate Programs (Top 100)	<i>Tier 3 graduate programs include many large, state universities that offer a broad range of fields of study, including many highly-rated science and engineering programs. Not as competitive for entrance as the Tier 1 and 2 graduate programs, nonetheless these graduate programs still offer very high standards of education, representing many universities in the top 200 of the country (of 3,000 institutions).</i>
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Examples include: Top-75 General Engineering Departments (#70 Clemson University, #71 Syracuse University, #72 University of Central Florida, #73 University of Connecticut, #74 Auburn University, #75 Mississippi State University). Top-75 Civil Engineering Programs (#70 Illinois Institute of Technology, #71 Syracuse University, #72 Tufts University, #73 University of Houston, #74 University of Kentucky, #75 West Virginia University).

<u>Average</u> TOEFL Score	<u>Average GRE</u> Quantitative Score:	<u>Deadlines:</u>	<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Acceptance</u> <u>rates:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
580	720	Some may accept transfer students, Spring admissions	Mostly A's and B's (5's and 4's) must be shown on transcripts.	50% or more of applicants are accepted.	Essay, recommendations, awards should demonstrate that student has a solid background in chosen field. Many students are able to show some contribution to field, such as published research.