ITEM FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council
Date: November 20, 2025
Presented by: Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

Subject: Master of Science Accelerated Admission Pathway for Mechanical Engineering

MOTION

It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the MSc Accelerated Admission Pathway for Mechanical Engineering, effective May 2026.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing new Accelerated MSc Admissions Pathway in Mechanical Engineering. This new admission pathway will be available to students completing the BSc in Engineering (BE), Mechanical Engineering, at the University of Saskatchewan. Through this new admission pathway, conditional admission will be offered to students applying in the third or fourth year of their undergraduate program. Students offered conditional admission will take up to two 800-level courses while completing their BE and will conduct research through summer research programs. The 800-level courses will be used towards the completion of the MSc in Mechanical Engineering program. This new admission pathway offers the opportunity for exceptional BE students to get a head start on research and MSc course requirements; students admitted through this pathway are expected to complete the MSc in Mechanical Engineering within 12 months – 16 months.

The goal of this new admission pathway is to retain top USask BE students and reduce time to completion in the MSc Mechanical Engineering program. Additionally, the creation of this pathway could mean improved Tri-Council scholarship opportunities and increased undergraduate research.

CONSULTATION

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies submitted a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) on October 29, 2025. The Academic Programs Committee reviewed the proposal and engaged in a fulsome discussion. The committee voted in favour of this proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Master of Science Accelerated Admission Pathway for Mechanical Engineering Proposal**

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway in Mechanical Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
CGPS.USASK.CA

116, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9 Canada
Telephone: **306-966-5751**
Email: **grad.studies@usask.ca**

Executive Summary

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: **Graduate Programs Committee, CGPS**

Date: October 14, 2025

Re: Accelerated MSc Admissions Pathway in Mechanical Engineering

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is recommending approval of a new Accelerated MSc Admissions Pathway in Mechanical Engineering. This new admission pathway will be available to students completing the BSc in Engineering (BE), Mechanical Engineering, at the University of Saskatchewan. Through this new admission pathway, conditional admission will be offered to students applying in the third or fourth year of their undergraduate program. Students offered conditional admission will take up to two 800-level courses while completing their BE and will conduct research through summer research programs. The 800-level courses will be used towards the completion of the MSc in Mechanical Engineering program. This new admission pathway offers the opportunity for exceptional BE students to get a head start on research and MSc course requirements; students admitted through this pathway are expected to complete the MSc in Mechanical Engineering within 12 months – 16 months.

The goal of this new admission pathway is to retain top USask BE students and reduce time to completion in the MSc Mechanical Engineering program. Additionally, the creation of this pathway could mean improved Tri-Council scholarship opportunities and increased undergraduate research.

The Graduate Programs Committee reviewed the proposal at their meeting on September 15, 2025. The committee met with the proponent and discussed how a higher than minimum cumulative average (80%) is needed to ensure the program is recruiting students with the highest chance of being successful in an accelerated pathway, as well as how an advisory committee would best support students through the completion of their research and coursework. Members were impressed with the proposal and felt that this new pathway would be a great opportunity for students. The committee unanimously recommended the proposal for approval, pending minor edits for clarification.

MOTION: To recommend approval to the Academic Programs Committee of Council of the Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway in Mechanical Engineering, pending minor revisions to the proposal. **Alema/Ferrari CARRIED unanimously**

Attached please find the proposal for the Accelerated MSc Admissions Pathway in Mechanical Engineering

If you have any questions, please contact the Academic Affairs Specialist at gradprograms.academicaffairs@usask.ca.

Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway(AMAP) in Mechanical Engineering

Background: Undergraduate students in Mechanical Engineering (ME) currently apply for their MSc program during the final year of their undergraduate program in order to start the MSc program the following September. Our Department also offered admission to three top undergraduate students into our MSc program in their final year in previous years. During their MSc program, all students are required to take 12 CUs of coursework, and students are expected to finish their MSc in approximately 24 months. We also allow MSc students who completed four graduate courses to transfer the PhD program. University, College and Department are now encouraging undergraduate research.

Proposal: We propose a new admission pathway to the ME MSc program, called the *Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway* (*AMAP*) to **offer conditional admission to our undergraduate students into the MSc program as early as the third year of their BSc program in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.**

Once a student is conditionally offered via AMAP, their advisory committee will be set up immediately, consisting of the Graduate Chair and their supervisor(s). Students entering via this pathway must conduct research through summer research programs supported by various USRA (Undergraduate Student Research Award) such as NSERC, Goodfellow Engineering Dean's Undergraduate Research, faculty research fund and so on. These students must also take one 3-CU graduate course per year whenever available in Fall term, Winter term or Summer term, which is used towards their 12 CU of MSc degree requirements. **However, they would only become officially registered in their MSc program once the BSc degree is completed.** Students will pay the undergraduate per credit rate for all undergraduate courses and the graduate per credit rate for all graduate courses while they are registered in their BSc program.

The MSc degree requirements for students entering the ME MSc program through this pathway do not change. However, due to this head-start in research and course studies, these students are expected to finish their MSc degree in 12 months if they entered this pathway for two summers, or 16 months if they entered this pathway for one summer.

Benefits could include: 1) Retain more top students, 2) Improved Tri-Council scholarship opportunities (esp. CGS-M), 3) Lead to more undergrad research, 4) Reduced time to completion.

Risk could include: 1) students' withdrawal from MSc after taking the AMAP in ME, 2) supervisors' earlier commitment to a student whose performance is deficient. The student deficiencies could include 1) failure to maintain the average of above 80% for BSc course studies; 2) failure to reach 70% of a graduate course study; 3) the poor research performance (evaluated by their advisory committee).

Current Landscape in Department of Mechanical Engineering

From Table 1, the Department of Mechanical Engineering had a large thesis-based graduate program consisting of about 100 students annually before the COVID. Since the COVID pandemic, our enrollments have been decreasing significantly. Due to the restriction of international students with PALs, since Jan 2025, we only offered 11 applicants, out of which 3 were international PhDs (3 PAL used), 6 were international M.Sc. (1 PAL used) and other 2 were domestic M.Sc. (graduate from ME at U of S). Note that more than two-thirds of graduate students are international.

year/terms	ME990	ME 992(MEng)	ME 994(MSc)	ME996 (PhD)	Master%
2025 Winter	46	2	**23**	21	**52.3%**
2024 Fall	50	5	**26**	20	**56.5%**
2023 Winter	69	5	**42**	22	**65.6%**
2022 Fall	63	3	**36**	24	**60.0%**
2022 Winter	71	6	**40**	25	**61.5%**
2019 Winter	109	9	**62**	38	**62.0%**
2018 Fall	102	8	**58**	36	**61.7%**

The MSc program in Mechanical Engineering plays a crucial role in our graduate program offerings, making up from 52.3%-65.6% of our total thesis-based graduate enrolment in past years (see Table 1). Many of our PhD candidates obtained their MSc degree in Mechanical Engineering at U of S as well. However, only a small percentage of our BSc graduates in Mechanical Engineering at U of S subsequently enroll in our MSc program. Indeed, the in-the-field employment rate for our undergrads has traditionally been very high, and many students opt for the significantly higher paying opportunities within industry than an MSc confers. While these opportunities are excellent, many of our most-talented undergraduate students have had a considerable head-start both in terms of research and coursework relative to our MSc students who did their undergraduate degree at other institutions. However, this head-start is not well recognized within the direct requirements and within the expectations and timelines. Moreover, new opportunities could be provided for further time savings by allowing graduate learning objectives to be completed and counted during the undergraduate program.

To encourage undergraduate research, our department developed an undergraduate research course (ME498, recently re-numbered as ME488) for the final year undergraduates where our faculty members proposed some research projects for undergraduates. Each year 3 or 4 students took this course and one or more of these students have gone on to pursue graduate studies. Many undergraduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering were already involved in departmental research as summer undergraduate research assistants (USRAs) through NSERC

USRAs, Goodfellow Scholarship (awarded to undergraduates for research by College of Engineering) or USRAs given out directly by faculty members through their own grants as shown on Table 2.

Table 2. Number of undergraduate research assistants

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Average
ME 498/488	4	3	3	3.3
Goodfellow	1	3	2	2
NSERC USRA	1	2	3	2
Research Hires	5	5	6	5.3
Total	11	13	14	12.6

In their final year, our undergraduates have opportunities to take a few elective courses, which helps satisfy the breadth we require of our MSc students. Our faculty have found that our own undergraduates who continue to the MSc program in Mechanical Engineering at U of S (and sometimes PhD) often end up with more breadth in coursework than we typically see in graduate students who did not obtain their undergraduate degree here.

Our faculty members have frequently felt that our own undergraduate students have a significant leg-up in both coursework and research for the MSc degree. However, we do not currently recognize this head-start, and we have not developed any efficiencies or explicit opportunities to save time, nor to adjust timing expectations in completing an MSc degree after completing a BSc degree. While there are methods to reduce time in PhD (both direct entry from BSc to PhD, and transfer from MSc to PhD), there is currently no common method or strategy at U of S to compress time between a BSc program and an MSc program. Most engineering students wishing for a career in industry could often benefit from an MSc degree, especially if it could be accomplished in a shorter period.

For many years, the ME Graduate Committee has held department-wide recruitment sessions targeted to the 3rd and 4th year undergrads to discuss the benefits of the MSc program in ME at U of S. But despite this, it is evident from the small number of U of S undergrads in our MSc program that most of these students still opt for moving to industry at the end of their BSc degree. The most frequent comment from students who obtain research experience as an undergrad is that two additional years for a MSc degree is too lengthy.

Proposed Solution

Our proposed solution is a new admission pathway to the ME MSc program, called the *Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway* (*AMAP*) to *offer conditional admission to our undergraduate students*

into the MSc program as early as the third year, during their BSc program in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

This solution is only for undergraduate students in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. Students may apply to the MSc in ME during their 3rd or 4th year. Successful applicants will be conditionally accepted to the MSc in ME program. Via the AMAP in ME, it is possible for them to partially complete requirements and learning objectives for the MSc degree while still completing their BSc degree and before having started their MSc program. Specifically, if conditionally accepted, they work on summer research under the supervision of a faculty member in the ME for one or two summers before they start their MSc program. During each of these summers, students are allowed to take one 3CU graduate-level course each summer, which **cannot** be used to count towards any BSc degree requirements.

The MSc in the ME Program requires 12 CUs of coursework. Hence, once these students via AMAP have started the MSc program, they will only need to take an additional 6 CUs or 9 CUs graduate courses. As always, advisory committees can require more courses if they are deemed appropriate. The combination of taking fewer graduate courses and early undergraduate research results in significant time savings which can realistically reduce both the time-in-program and the timeline expectations for students in the MSc program. Specifically, the expected timeline for students via AMAP is 12 months to complete the MSc if they take two summers, or 16 months if they take only one summer. These time saves make sense as students via AMAP require the admission average of above 80%, which indicates their high quality while those entering via the standard admission pathway require the admission average of above 70%, and is expected the average of 24 months to complete their MSc.

Importantly, the proposed solution is not a new program (nor a program framework), and it uses the existing BSc and MSc in ME programs. Students who successfully complete it will receive the BSc when its requirements are completed in the 4th year and will receive the MSc in later years. However, there will be a different application process, offer letter, methods of funding, and available opportunities that can be used exclusively for our BSc students in ME in order to accelerate their time-in-program at the MSc level. Hence, it is not a new program, but only a new admission pathway.

Academic Justification:

a. Describe why the program would be a valuable addition to the university from an academic programming perspective.

This is not a new program, and the learning objectives are identical to our existing MSc in ME program. This is only a new admission pathway that we are hoping attracts a new pool of excellent

undergraduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

b. Considering strategic objectives, specify how the new program fits the university signature areas and/or institutional plans and/or the college/school and/or department plans.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, CGPS, and the University of Saskatchewan generally have prioritized increasing the number of Tri-council scholarships obtained by our students. U of S has fared poorly in this regard. Within the Department of Mechanical Engineering, about two-thirds of the graduate students are international students, and they are therefore ineligible for Tri-Council Master's Scholarships. In our previous practice, we offered our top 3 undergraduate students into our ME graduate program, they were typically awarded Tri-Council Scholarships if they are domestic. It is anticipated that a larger percentage of students entering via the AMAP will be eligible for Tri-council Master's Scholarships. Moreover, it will be **required** that these eligible students apply for Tri-council scholarships as part of the AMAP. We therefore expect that the AMAP will increase our number of Tri-council applications. Furthermore, it is very common for students in their last year of undergraduate studies to not apply for NSERC CGS-M even if they are eligible (and if they were to apply in their first year of MSc, then it would discourage finishing the MSc in one year). With the AMAP, we should increase the number of Tri-council applications by supervisors working directly with these students on their CGS-M application during their BSC degree, and because the application for NSERC CGS-M is a requirement of conditional admission. Indeed, it was previously impossible to require these students to apply for NSERC CGS-M while being undergraduates. In addition, existing research experience and outcomes with the students should also improve the quality of the Tri-council applications, leading to a higher success rate.

c. Is there a particular student demographic this program targets, and if so, what is that target? (e.g., Indigenous, mature, international, returning)

The pool of students that we are attempting to attract with this new admission pathway are explicitly students who have completed a BSc in Mechanical Engineering at U of S. We believe that our own top graduates are already excellently prepared for research. With the AMAP, the one or two summers of undergraduate research will further prepare these students for research before the MSc program formally starts.

d. What are the most similar competing programs in Saskatchewan and Canada? How is this program different?

The Department of Computer Science at U of S started a similar program a couple of years ago. In the Computer Science program, students along the Accelerated Admission pathway are allowed to take only one or two special research courses. However, we will allow students along AMAP to

take any graduate level courses with the approval of their supervisor. We also examined all U15 universities for methods of compressing time between a BSc degree and an MSc degree. As far as we can find from their webs, the other 9 out of the U15 have some mechanism to reduce time between a BSc and MSc degree as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: U15 Universities with a method of reducing time between a BSc and a MSc.

Universities with compressed BSc/MSc	Description
U of Toronto	* Many “Combined Degree Programs” involving both a BSc and MSc usually listed as taking 5 (or sometimes 6) years, including Engineering and Computer Science
Western	*Certain degrees (e.g. Engineering, Biochem) taking 1 year beyond undergrad
Waterloo	* “Accelerated MSc Programs” with many programs including Mathematics and Engineering
UBC	*BSc–MSc Accelerated Pathway in Computer Science *Allows students to take graduate courses in 4th year and apply them toward the MSc
Laval	* “Integrated MSc Program” * Grad courses successfully completed will credit both undergrad and grad degree
McGill	* “B.Sc. / M.Sc. (Thesis) Track” * Start in year 3 of undergrad * Goal to get M.Sc. in 1 year * Can take grad courses as undergrad to compress timeline * Students can be admitted directly into PhD from B.Sc. with strong research profile, including Science and Engineering
Queen’s	* “Accelerated and Combined Programs” * Combined Geography and Urban & Regional Planning undergrad and MSc
U of Calgary	*U Calgary provides formal combined graduate programs such as JD/MBA, MBA/MPP, Master of Management + Master of Science (with TUM), and the Leaders in Medicine combined MD + MSc/MA/PhD track *These involve simultaneous admission to two graduate credentials, often across faculties or institutions, and are completed in reduced time
University of Alberta	*Departments offer **combined BSc–MSc options** (e.g., in Chemistry and Computing Science)

All instances seem to be awarding two separate degrees, a BSc and an MSc, or an MSc and other degrees, but it is common for students to apply to the MSc program partway through their BSc degree. Typically, while obtaining their BSc degree, some portion of the courses and/or research can be used to satisfy the MSc requirement, thereby saving time once the MSc program starts. This mechanism is sometimes called "Accelerated MSc" or "Integrated MSc". It is typical for students to obtain their BSc degree at the end of the fourth year and then continue with the remaining requirements for the MSc degree. Some universities allow one or more graduate courses taken as an undergraduate to count towards both their undergraduate and graduate degree (Laval allows this without a limit in number, and Waterloo limits it to 6 CUs).

Admissions:

The Admission Framework document must be reviewed to determine how an applicant will be considered for admission. There are several factors to consider when creating a new program. The Manager, Admissions and Transfer Credit, can assist in the development of the criteria. Information determined here should then be used to inform the completion of an Admission Template as found on https://programs.usask.ca/programs/admission-requirements.php

a. ***What are the admissions requirements*** *of this program – high school subjects, secondary or post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests?*

We are not changing any admission requirements for those that apply using the traditional pathway. These admission requirements are highlighted at https://www.cs.usask.ca/students/graduate/graduate-programs/applications-for-admission.php. We will only describe the modifications for students applying using AMAP. Typically, students will apply to the MSc in ME using the AMAP during November of either their third or fourth year of BSc program.

Students will use a separate and considerably condensed application process from the usual one for the MSc program. The requirements are the same as what currently appears in the calendar at https://www.cs.usask.ca/students/graduate/graduate-programs/applications-for-admission.php with the following exceptions.

- Applicants will not need to provide any English requirement as part of the application, as any student who successfully completes ME at the U of S -- which is an admission condition via the AMAP to the MSc program -- will automatically satisfy the English requirement of the MSc program.
- Only two letters of reference will be required, with at least one being academic, and a second can be either academic or professional. While our existing MSc application process

requires three letters of reference with at least two being academic and the third being academic or professional, one fewer letter is reasonable for the AMAP after only completing two or three years of coursework and before they have taken part in any research project. Also, a letter from a colleague at U of S can be more easily trusted.

- The minimum average of 80% in their course studies that count towards their undergraduate degree

*b. **What are the selection criteria** – how will you rank and select applicants? For example, ranking by admission average, admission test scores, interview scores, departmental recommendations, auditions, portfolios, letters of reference, admission essays, and definition of essential abilities for professional practice?*

Students will only be considered if they apply using the AMAP and they are currently registered in at least their third year of ME BSc program, and they have a minimum average of 80% in their course studies that count towards their BSc degree. This list of applications will be distributed to all faculty in the ME Department. As we do with our current graduate admission process, faculty can relay to our Graduate Study Committee who they would like to supervise and indicate what level they can contribute toward funding (the funding method will be described in the section below) for the student's program. These faculty members can base their recommendations on a holistic fashion using the student's past grades, their CV, the specific courses taken by the student, the student's desired area of research, informal interviews if desired, and the letter of reference. The Graduate Study Committee will attempt to accept as many of these students as possible by matching students to supervisors. Only students for whom there is a matching supervisor together with a full funding package will be conditionally accepted with AMAP. If there are more applicants than we can possibly accept based on departmental funding limits, then the Graduate Study Committee will rank students using the same holistic criteria as mentioned above which will inform which students will be accepted. However, our goal is to conditionally accept every student that satisfies the minimum criteria for whom a matching supervisor and funding can be found. We strongly suspect this will be possible with our graduate program.

*c. **What are admission categories** – regular admission, special admission, and Indigenous equity admission?*

We will use regular admission. All students that the department decides to accept using the process above are given conditional admission. This will typically occur when students are in their third or fourth year of their BSc degree. Students we decide to accept using the AMAP will receive a letter offering conditional admission to the MSc in ME program. It will offer:

1) summer work as a USRA with funding and enrolment in a graduate course for the summer following conditional admission. They must maintain an average of at least 80% in their undergraduate courses.

2) a conditional admission to the MSc in ME program starting that September if they are in their fourth year, or the following September if two years remain, on condition of:

- having completed the ME B.Sc. program,
- having received the average grade of least 80% of their last 60CU course studies in their BSc program,
- having completed at least 3 CU graduate courses taken during their undergraduate program, with at least 70% in each course,
- if eligible, completing an application for NSERC PGS M postgraduate scholarship in their final year of undergraduate studies (the application need not be successful to meet the condition).

*d. What are the **admission models** – direct entry, non-direct entry, ranked competitive or cut-off average? Is confirmation of admission required?*

All admissions will be via direct entry.

*e. **Intake** - how many seats are required to be filled – for first year and transfer students, reserved for Indigenous, Saskatchewan, out-of-province, and international students?*

Our goal and expectation are for every student who applies where a matching supervisor and funding package can be found will be accepted, including both domestic and international students without any priority between the two groups. We will not have any limit on the number of these students, as the size of our existing graduate program will certainly exceed the number of applications that we will receive from students using this pathway. We do not expect that this new pathway will substantially increase the number of graduate students we currently have in total. We are currently averaging about 3 graduate students per faculty member. However, we hope that time-to-completion will decrease and allow for new graduate students to therefore be admitted sooner. This pathway should increase the number of local students. We expect about 3-10 students to use AMAP annually. The number of 10 was obtained by the estimation from Table 2.

f. What are the application process and timelines – September or January intakes, online application, application and document deadlines, and scholarship deadlines to consider?

We typically only consider September admissions, although January admissions are possible as exceptions if we can arrange supervision and funding. We will use online applications.

The timeline needs to be arranged paying close attention to scholarship deadlines. We require that all undergraduates who have been accepted to MSc with the AMAP and who are eligible, to apply for both NSERC USRA before each of their summers of research and also for NSERC CGS-M. It

should also be noted that it is not possible to hold an NSERC USRA if a student is already a registered graduate student. This demonstrates why a conditional offer letter needs to be given to students offering admission to the MSc program in September after their final USRA is completed. According to the USRA policy, students are only eligible for USRAs as long as they are registered in a BSc program and not currently registered as a MSc student. Therefore, it is not desirable for students to be formally enrolled in both the BSc and MSc at the same time.

The typical timeline is as follows for those applying during **their 3rd year** of undergraduate studies:

- November of the 3rd year: students apply via the AMAP and accepted students receive a conditional offer.
- January of 3rd year: eligible students apply for NSERC USRA with their supervisor(s)
- From January of 3rd year to August of 4th year, student can take two graduate courses whenever available in Winter term, Summer term or Fall term
- May-August of 3rd year: students work on research with their supervisor(s).
- November of 4th year: eligible students apply for NSERC CGS-M with their supervisor(s).
- January of 4th year: eligible students apply for NSERC USRA with their supervisor(s).
- May-August of 4th year: students work on research with their supervisor(s).
- June of 4th year: students receive their BSc degree.
- September of 5th year: if conditions are completed, students start and become registered in their MSc program. Typically, two additional courses will be required during the 5th year, and the thesis and defence need to be completed.
- End of August of 6th year: expected time to complete MSc degree requirements.

The typical timeline is as follows for those entering **their 4th year** of undergraduate studies:

- November of 4th year: students apply for the AMAP and accepted students receive a conditional offer letter.
- November of 4th year: eligible students apply for NSERC CGS-M with their supervisor(s).
- January of 4th year: eligible students apply for NSERC USRA with their supervisor(s).
- From January of 4rd year to August of 4th year, student can take one graduate course whenever available in Winter term or Summer term.
- May-August of 4th year: students work on research with their supervisor(s).
- June of 4th year: students receive their BSc degree.
- September of 5th year: if conditions are completed, students start and become registered in their MSc program. Typically, three additional courses will be required during the 5th year, and the thesis and defence need to be completed.
- End of December of 6th year: expected time to complete MSc degree requirements.

There is some possible variation in the typical timeline. A student could take 5 years to complete their undergraduate degree, and this could be accommodated. Also, our ME program has an

internship option, which provides an internship opportunity of either 12 months or 16 months typically taken during their fourth year of classes. Students taking the Internship option would most likely apply to the AMAP in their last year of their undergraduate degree, after the internship is complete.

As with our students admitted via the normal admission pathway, deferrals in starting the MSc of up to one year are typically honored, when possible, with the funding in the offer letters kept. Students are always able to enter via the normal pathway at any time where they qualify.

g. Which office will manage the admission process – TLSE, college, department, or a combination?

Admissions are managed by the department and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Our Graduate Studies Committee will rank all incoming applicants and match students to supervisors while balancing funding.

h. Marketing and Promotion of New Program – consideration needs to be given to a communications plan and marketing of the new program.

Each year in October, the ME Graduate Chair or designate will advertise and host a seminar and Q&A targeted to 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students who are interested in accelerating the MSc program and taking part in summer research. This will also be heavily advertised as including summer employment and research opportunities. Individual faculty also currently advertise USRA positions within their own classes, and this can continue with an eye towards accelerating an MSc degree.

i. Admissions Appeal – what will this process be.

Admission appeals are managed by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

j. Transfer Credit – when will this be assessed and by which office?

The conditional offer of admission to the MSc program using the AMAP will include the requirement of successful completion of ME BSc program at the U of S. Transfer credits within that BSc degree will follow existing policies and procedures. Once the student has been unconditionally accepted to the MSc program, transfer credits are approved by the student's Advisory Committee as we currently do for our existing MSc students. However, given the specifics of the proposed admission pathway, we would not expect a student admitted in this way to have any credits to transfer for credit towards their MSc program.

Description of the program:

a. What are the curricular objectives, and how are these accomplished?

The curricular objectives are not changing and are identical to our existing MSc in ME program. The MSc program in ME offers students high quality, cutting-edge research opportunities and supervision by world leaders in their respective fields. Our MSc program is ideally suited to students wishing to become senior professionals in the technology industry or to those seeking to prepare for a career in scientific research. Graduates of the ME program often become senior engineers, project leaders in industry, or scholars in academy.

Graduates of the MSc program will be able to:

- demonstrate expertise in mechanical engineering,
- critically evaluate literature and research techniques from engineering,
- work independently towards their research, and execute their research plan,
- communicate and interpret requirements with researchers in both mechanical engineering and their cognate disciplines,
- collaborate and participate in a cutting-edge research group,
- write a rigorous scientific document for academic audiences,
- communicate and defend their research through oral presentations,
- obtain a substantial breadth of knowledge across mechanical engineering areas generally.

b. Describe the modes of delivery, experiential learning opportunities, and general teaching philosophy relevant to the programming. Where appropriate, include information about whether this program is being delivered in a distributed format.

These are not changing for students admitted using the AMAP. Students will be required to attend presentations in seminar series within ME, and they will participate in presentations and discussions in lab meetings. The required coursework will provide further background for being able to address the required components depending on the project. There are no plans for explicit delivery in a distributed format.

c. Provide an overview of the curriculum mapping.
The curriculum mapping will be identical to the existing MSc program in ME program. The program requirements include completing the ME 990 seminar series, ME 994 MSc thesis, and GSR 960 Ethics. Students in the MSc in ME (using either admission pathway) must complete 12 CUs worth of courses. For students who entered via the traditional admission (not AMAP) pathway, three credit units can be taken at the 300 level or 400 level at the discretion of the advisory

committee. However, students who entered via AMAP are not allowed to take 300 level or 400 level courses, and all CUs must be graduate-level coursework.

The MSc program requires an Advisory Committee that follows CGPS guidelines of no less than two people: the supervisor(s) and a committee member. The committee is expected to meet with the students once per academic year, on average, over the course of their degree. The committee must approve a thesis document as suitable for defence. In addition, the committee is required to perform a formal proposal at least 6 months prior to the defence. The written thesis/dissertation will involve original research that contributes new knowledge towards mechanical engineering. Students are expected to obtain ethics approvals if needed. The defence will involve a 20-minute presentation summarizing the research, followed by rigorous questioning from the examining committee.

d. Identify where the opportunities for synthesis, analysis, application, critical thinking, problem-solving are, and other relevant identifiers.

Students will explicitly be involved in research within mechanical engineering. This will involve reading publications from within the area and then synthesizing the various connections required. In the course of the research, a plan will be developed, and problem solving will be required to address hypotheses in an appropriate fashion. As roadblocks are inevitably reached during the progression of their research, the student will need to critically evaluate appropriate techniques to solve their problems, or to alter their hypotheses.

e. Explain the comprehensive breadth of the program.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering places significant importance to every graduate of the MSc in ME program having substantial breadth in the field of mechanical engineering. This is an important standard to uphold as our graduates move to industry and academia elsewhere. While currently students in the MSc would have 12 CUs graduate courses, students entering via the AMAP would have sufficient breadth with a BSc Degree in ME, at least 12 CUs graduate courses. breadth for these students should be excellent.

f. Referring to the university "Learning Charter", explain how the learning pursuits are addressed and what degree attributes and skills will be acquired by graduates of the program.

There are no changes from our existing MSc in ME program, but we will annotate them here.

Truth and understanding: The ME program follows the scientific principles of analysis and evaluation. ME can be applied to almost every other discipline, as it provides techniques for conducting experiments, collecting and analyzing data, e.g. via modeling and simulation. Through

coursework and supervision, students will be encouraged to be creative with their solutions, and to make critical thinking.

Pursuit of knowledge: Students in the ME program undertake the work of contributing to the body of knowledge in the ME community and related disciplines. This enables the synthesis and pursuit of knowledge.

Pursuit of integrity and respect: There is an emphasis placed on professionalism and integrity. Scientific integrity is crucial, and will be emphasized within coursework, and throughout their program. As an example, the Department of ME often provides a seminar on Academic Integrity to our graduate students under ME 990.

Pursuit of skills and practices The ME program provides the skills required to conduct research both individually and in teams, through collaboration and communication with those from different disciplines. Communication is also required through research presentations, presentations in courses, ME 990 and possibly at international conferences.

Individual and community pursuits Throughout their program, students will develop their leadership skills within their labs. Largely, these projects will enable students to explicitly make positive contributions to society, and it will allow them to use these skills and gain responsibility in other areas of community.

g. Describe how students can enter this program from other programs (program transferability).

Students would transfer into the MSc program from another graduate program through the normal existing processes. Transfers between graduate programs are not relevant to the proposed AMAP.

h. Specify the criteria that will be used to evaluate whether the program is a success within a specified timeframe.

We will start to review this new admission pathway after one cohort of students has fully passed through it. For students in the 3rd year in 2025-2026, they will have finished the 5th year by the fall of 2028. We will assess the AMAP in the fall of 2028 to decide if it has been successful, and if so, whether any revisions need to take place.

i. If applicable, is accreditation or certification available, and if so, how will the program meet professional standard criteria? Specify in the budget below any costs that may be associated.

Our existing MSc in the ME program is not accredited, and this new pathway is therefore unaffected. Note that our undergraduate is accredited by Engineers Canada through Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB), but this accreditation will be unaffected as AMAP is not changing the existing undergraduate programs.

Consultation:

a. Describe how the program relates to existing programs in the department, in the college or school, and with other colleges. Establish where students from other programs may benefit from courses in this program. Does the proposed program lead into other programs offered at the university or elsewhere?

This is not a new program, but only a new admission pathway. Students from other programs will not directly benefit.

b. List units that were consulted formally and provide a summary of how consultation was conducted and how concerns that were raised in consultations have been addressed. Attach the relevant communication in an appendix.

This is not a new program, and this new admission pathway is explicitly for students from our own undergraduate program in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at U of S. Therefore, no external units were consulted. Consultation will be conducted with several members of CGPS to fully understand the complexity of coordinating both undergraduate and graduate program requirements.

c. Proposals that involve courses or other resources from colleges outside the sponsoring unit should include evidence of consultation and approval. Please give special consideration to pre- and co-requisite requirements when including courses from other colleges.

Neither new program nor new course is being created. The students via the AMAP are allowed to take only ME graduate courses whenever available in Fall term, Winter term or Summer term.

d. List other pertinent consultations and evidence of support, if applicable (e.g., professional associations, accreditation bodies, potential employers, etc.).

The Department of Computer Science was consulted regarding their Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway. The ME Graduate Chair Professor FangXiang Wu consulted with the Graduate Chair of Computer Science Professor Ian McQuillan who developed the Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway in Department of Computer Science. Professor McQuillan shared his experience for developing the Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway in Department of Computer Science and

gave a lot of very insightful and constructive suggestions. There are no additional letters of support obtained.

Budget:

The Financial Implications Form must be completed to determine the cost impact of the proposed program. ***Information about budget and financial implications appears in that form.***
This form needs to be completed by the time the proposal gets to APC (not GPC).

Additional Notes on the AMAP

Funding Model

Currently, the standard scholarship (ME devolved/ 75th recruitment) for MSc students in our department is at the rate of $20,000/year in their first 24 months. Currently, summer undergraduate student research assistants will be paid in alignment with USRA requirements.

For students accepted using the AMAP during their last year of their BSc degree, the offer letter will describe USRA funding for that summer, and separate graduate funding for 16 months of their MSc. For students who accepted using the AMAP during their second last year of their BSc degree, the offer letter will describe USRA funding for that summer, USRA funding for the next summer, and separate graduate funding for 12 months of their MSc. Thus, in total, all students are offered 20 months of total funding using a combination of MSc and USRA funding.

When students are accepted with the AMAP, the USRA (or research hire) funding for that summer is guaranteed, however the USRA funding for further summers of undergraduate research, and other graduate funding for the MSc will be on the same conditions as continuation and acceptance to the MSc program as outlined in the Offer Letter section. The USRA (or research hire) funding will be at the standard undergraduate rate while the MSc funding will be at the standard MSc rate used by our department. Supervisors can pay extra and for longer periods than the guaranteed period, but this will be optional and not guaranteed in offer letters to students.

As part of the conditional admission, students who are eligible will be required to apply for Tri-council USRAs for each of the summers of undergraduate research; and students who are eligible will also be required to apply for a Tri-Council CGS-M before starting their MSc studies. Their supervisors will work with them to help complete these applications. If successful, these scholarships will help pay for the standard undergraduate rate during their BSc degree (NSERC USRA is currently awarding $6,000 for the summer, and the supervisor(s) pays the remaining portion), and for the standard graduate rate during their first year of their MSc (NSERC CGS-M

is currently awarding $27,000 for one year of MSc, and departmental funds pay for the remaining portion).

If a student's USRA application is unsuccessful, the student will still be given the standard undergraduate rate during the summers of undergraduate research through other means such as supervisor's grants; and if the conditions are met for the admission to the MSc degree, then the MSc funding is also guaranteed through other means (combinations of Student Support Fund, 75th Anniversary Scholarship, faculty member's grants). While this is a large commitment of funds, it is still 20 total months in all cases. Also in all cases, international students who are currently undergraduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at U of S can apply and participate in AMAP. While they would not be eligible for NSERC USRA, or NSERC CGS-M, they would remain eligible for summer research hire positions when they are undergraduate students and 75th Anniversary Scholarship and regular graduate funding for their MSc funding. They will be given equal priority as domestic students as long as funding and supervisor(s) are in place.

Additional Special Notes

- Once a student is conditionally offered via AMAP, their advisory committee will be set up immediately, consisting of the Graduate Chair and their supervisor(s). This committee will evaluate the student's academic performance.
- The student deficiencies couldinclude 1) failure to maintain the average of above 80% for BSc course studies; 2) failure to reach 70% of a graduate course study; 3) the poor research performance (evaluated by their advisory committee).
- It is possible for students to switch supervisors if they desire so. This is especially important for students who start in the third year, and we expect some students to switch supervisors for their fourth summer, and students will be told that this is possible. However, the new supervisor would need to agree to continue to honor the commitments made to the conditional offer. It will also be possible to switch supervisors later, but the expected time savings in the MSc might not be as large.
- Students can withdraw their conditional admission to AMAP before their MSc starts without penalty.
- Under the P.Eng. requirements, half of the study time of full-time graduate students can be credited as engineering experience for their P.Eng. application. Consequently, students via AMAP may have less experience credited toward their P. Eng application

Benefits to Department of Mechanical and University of Saskatchewan

- Improved Research Background Preparedness of MSc Students.
- Improved Tri-Council Scholarship Opportunities (as previously described)
- Use of Grant Funds and USRAs Towards Grad Program. NSERC USRAs have a $6,000 contribution from NSERC, and existing faculty are paying a considerable amount towards

USRAs. The new funding method leverages this undergraduate funding towards graduate funding packages.

- More undergraduate research. With the opportunity to accelerate their MSc, more students might undertake undergraduate research in the summers after the 3rd or 4th year. Similarly, more faculty members might wish to supervise undergraduate research, with a greater probability that these students will continue to get an MSc degree.
- More top local students. It is somewhat common for our top undergraduate students to attend other universities for the MSc level. While this will not stop, there is an opportunity to retain some of these students for the MSc program if there has been a significant head-start in both research and coursework with an opportunity for time savings, and an established relationship with the supervisor.

Benefits to Students

- Guaranteed Funding in Undergrad. Students conditionally admitted for the Accelerated Admission Pathway will receive conditionally guaranteed funding during the summer when they most need it. For example, for students who apply to the AMAP in the third year of undergraduate studies, they will receive a total of about $21,000 for their third and fourth summer during their BSc. This can have a large and positive financial impact on students when expenses are high. These commitments are honored even if NSERC USRA applications are unsuccessful
- Only two more graduate courses are needed while enrolled in their MSc program.
- Reduce the expected timeline to completion. The expectation both by the students themselves and by faculty in our department is that the research and course work done during the one or two summers can be used as a starting point towards the MSc degree, which can help reduce the amount of time needed to complete the MSc to as low as 12 months.
- Salary in Industry. According to Statistics Canada (2018 study), In STEM, **MSc holders** may earn **about 12% more than** BSc holders in equivalent roles—especially if their degree involved research, management training, or niche specializations. In certain sectors—**R&D, academia, advanced manufacturing, or regulation-heavy industries**—a master's degree can significantly boost both initial salary offers and long-term advancement potential.

Potential Risks to Students

- There is sometimes a perceived negative effect on students doing all their degrees in one institution. However, these students can still have the opportunity to complete a PhD at other institutions. Furthermore, the positive impact of continuing their successful research and relationship with their supervisors can be quite positive. Students can also continue to use the traditional route of obtaining an undergraduate degree and then starting a traditional MSc degree without any issues.

- There is a risk that faculty will support undergraduate students through their undergraduate research but then decide not to attend the MSc and withdraw their conditional admission. While this is a risk, the likelihood that this occurs will go down from the current number of students receiving USRAs that do not continue to the MSc program.
- There is a risk of a negative relationship or fit between student and supervisor, or a lack of exploring different research areas. When advertising this pathway, it will be made clear to students that switching supervisors is possible, and if they work with different supervisors for their two summers of undergraduate research, this will be completely fine.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Engineering
ENGINEERING.USASK.CA

Office of the Dean
3B48 Engineering Building, 57 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A9 Canada
Telephone: **306-966-5273**
Fax: **306-966-5205**

September 3, 2025

Associate Dean Jaswant Singh
College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
University of Saskatchewan

Re: Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway (AMAP) in Mechanical Engineering

This is a letter in support of the attached proposal by our Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME) to institute a new Admission Pathway for students to enter the MSc program. This new pathway is targeted at strong 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students who will have one or two summers of research experience. It is intended to incentivize and facilitate the entrance of these students into the ME MSc program, and will allow these students to take one or two 3 cu ME graduate classes and have them count toward the 12 cu total required for the MSc.

The AMAP proposal is explained in detail in the attached proposal document. The motivation for this accelerated (or integrated) pathway is to provide a faster route to an MSc for strong ME undergraduates, that will enable the completion of the MSc within an additional ~1 year after completion of the undergraduate B.Eng. degree. This reduced time in program will be an important incentive for these students, since recent ME B.Eng. graduates are highly employable and can easily land well-paying jobs with just the B.Eng. degree. This job market reality makes recruitment of strong ME undergraduates into our ME graduate programs difficult, since good employment options are ready to hand. The intent of the AMAP program is to offset this somewhat, for high achieving students; there will be significant benefits to these students as well, since engineering leadership positions in industry often require at least an MSc degree, but this reality only becomes apparent to most B.Eng. graduates later in their careers.

In summary, the attached ME AMAP proposal is an innovative approach to recruiting strong MSc candidates into the ME graduate program, in the face of competitive job market realities. It is consistent with approaches taken at many good engineering schools across Canada, and also with European approaches (e.g. engineering degrees in France and Germany are typically Master's level). I fully support this innovative recruiting initiative and look forward to seeing it put in place. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the proponents (ME Graduate Chair Prof. FangXiang Wu and Dept. Head Prof. Scott Noble) if you have any questions or need more information.

With my very best regards,

Michael Bradley

Michael Bradley, Ph.D. (MIT), P.Eng.
Dean, College of Engineering &
Professor, Physics and Engineering Physics
College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan
57 Campus Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A9

MSc in Mechanical Engineering

Accelerated Admissions Pathway

Admission Requirements

- 4-year B.Sc. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan.
- a cumulative weighted average of at least 80% (U of S grade system equivalent) in undergraduate B.Sc. courses
- Completion of at least 3 credit units of 800-level courses with minimum grades of 70%
- Two letters of reference, with at least one being from an academic reference. One letter may be from a professional reference

Degree Requirements

Students must maintain continuous registration in the 990 and 994 courses.

- **GPS 960.0** Introduction to Ethics and Integrity
- **GPS 961.0** Ethics and Integrity in Human Research, if research involves human subjects
- **GPS 962.0** Ethics and Integrity in Animal Research, if research involves animal subjects

A minimum of 12 credit units at the 800-level, including the following:

- **ME 990.0** Seminar
- **ME 994.0** Research – Thesis

Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: New Accelerated Admission Pathway for the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Mechanical Engineering

General Description: The new admission pathway will allow USask students in Year 3 of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.E.) program in Mechanical Engineering to gain conditional admission to the M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering program. This is one year earlier than the current admission process, in which students apply to the M.Sc. program in the final year of the B.E. program to begin the following September. Program requirements for both the B.E. and the M.Sc. programs will remain the same; however, students pursuing this pathway will be able to complete the M.Sc. program in 12 months – 12 months sooner than the current pathway. With a requirement to maintain a cumulative weighted average of 80% average in their undergraduate program, this admission pathway will help USask retain top students in the field.

Degree College: College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

College Approval: Graduate Programs Committee approval, September 2025

Effective Term: May 2026

Course implication

- There are no new, changed, or deleted courses being proposed.

Registration and classes

- Class time slots, terms, and sessions will be similar to the existing schedule.
- Room scheduling needs will be similar to current needs.

Convocation

- No new hood is required.

Financial and Budget

- Standard tuition rates will be assessed. Students will be charged on a per credit unit basis while in the B.E. program and will be charged using the standard per term method of assessment while completing the M.Sc. program.
- Provost's Office and Strategic Finance Office support this proposal.

Admission and Student Mobility

- USask students are eligible for this admission pathway.

Consultation with the Registrar Form

This form is to be completed by the Registrar (or his/her designate) during an in-person consultation with the faculty member responsible for the proposal. Please consider the questions on this form prior to the meeting.

Section 1: New Degree / Diploma / Certificate Information or Renaming of Existing

1 Is this a new degree, diploma, or certificate? Yes [ ] No [X]
Is an existing degree, diploma, or certificate being renamed? Yes [ ] No [X]
If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 What is the name of the new degree, diploma, or certificate?

[60 character maximum for the long description; 30 character maximum for short description; 6 character maximum for code]

3 What is the credential of this new degree, diploma, or certificate? [Example - D.M.D. = Doctor of Dental Medicine]

4 If you have renamed an existing degree, diploma, or certificate, what is the current name?

5 Does this new or renamed degree / diploma / certificate require completion of degree level courses or non-degree level courses, thus implying the attainment of either a degree level or non-degree level standard of achievement?

6 If this is a new degree level certificate, can a student take it at the same time as pursuing another degree level program? Yes [ ] No [ ]

7 Which College is responsible for the awarding of this degree, diploma, or certificate?

8 Is there more than one program to fulfill the requirements for this degree, diploma, or certificate? If yes, please list these programs.

9 Are there any new majors, minors, or concentrations associated with this new degree / diploma / certificate? Please list the name(s) and whether it is a major, minor, or concentration, along with the sponsoring department.
NOTE: Majors, minors and concentrations are listed on transcripts, but not on parchments (this note also applies to options which are built as concentrations in Banner).

One major is required on all programs [4 characters for code and 30 characters for description]

10 If this is a new graduate degree, is it thesis-based, course-based, or project-based?

Section 2: New / Revised Program for Existing or New Degree / Diploma / Certificate Information

1 Is this a new program? Yes [ ] No [X]
Is an existing program being revised? Yes [ ] No [X]
If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, what degree, diploma, or certificate does this new/revised program meet requirements for?

3 What is the name of this new/revised program?
[30 character maximum for description; 12 character maximum for code]

4 What other program(s) currently exist that will also meet the requirements for this same degree(s)?

5 What College/Department is the academic authority for this program?

6 Is this a replacement for a current program? Yes [ ] No [ ]

7 If YES, will students in the current program complete that program or be grandfathered?

8 If this is a new graduate program, is it thesis-based, course-based, or project-based?

9 If this is a new non-degree or undergraduate level program, what is the expected completion time?

Section 3: New / Revised Major, Minor, or Concentration for Existing Degree Information (Undergraduate)

1 Is this a new or revised major, minor, or concentration attached to an existing degree program? Yes [ ] No [X] Revised [ ]
If you've answered NO, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, please specify whether it is a major, minor, or concentration. If it is more than one, please fill out a separate form for each.

3 What is the name of this new / revised major, minor, or concentration?

4 Which department is the authority for this major, minor, or concentration? If this is a cross-College relationship, please state the Jurisdictional College and the Adopting College.

5 Which current program(s), degree(s), and/or program type(s) is this new / revised major, minor, or concentration attached to?

Section 4: New / Revised Disciplinary Area for Existing Degree Information (Graduate)

1 Is this a new or revised disciplinary area attached to an existing graduate degree program? Yes [ ] No [X] Revised [ ]
If you've answered NO, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, what is the name of this new / revised disciplinary area?

3 Which Department / School is the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area? (NOTE - if this disciplinary area is being offered by multiple departments see question below.)

4 Which **multiple** Departments / Schools are the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area?

4a Of the **multiple** Departments / Schools who are the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area and what allocation percentage is assigned to each? (Note - must be whole numbers and must equal 100.)

4b

Of the **multiple** Departments / Schools who is the primary department? The primary department specifies which department / school policies will be followed in academic matters (ex. late adds, re-read policies, or academic misconduct). If no department / school is considered the primary, please indicate that. (In normal circumstances, a department / school with a greater percentage of responsibility - see question above - will be designated the primary department.)

5 Which current program(s) and / or degree(s) is this new / revised disciplinary area attached to?

Section 5: Program(s) Information for Financial Change (including Tuition and/or Tuition Assessment Change) with no Curricular Change

1 Is method of tuition assessment changing without a curricular change? Yes [ ] No [X]

2 If YES, what is the name of the program(s), major(s), minor(s), and/or concentration(s)?

3 If YES and this is the only change, proceed to Section 19 to complete the Financial Appendix.

Section 6: New College / School / Center / Department or Renaming of Existing

1 Is this a new college, school, center, or department? Yes [ ] No [X]
Is an existing college, school, center, or department being renamed? Yes [ ] No [X]
Is an existing college, school, center, or department being deleted? Yes [ ] No [X]
If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 What is the name of the new (or renamed or deleted) college, school, center, or department?

3 If you have renamed an existing college, school, center, or department, what is the current name?

4 What is the effective term of this new (renamed or deleted) college, school, center, or department?

5 Will any programs be created, changed, or moved to a new authority, removed, relabelled?

6 Will any courses be created, changed, or moved to a new authority, removed, relabelled?

7 Are there any ceremonial consequences for Convocation (ie. New degree hood, adjustment to parchments, etc.)?

Section 7: Mobility

Mobility is the ability to move freely from one jurisdiction to another and to gain entry into an academic institution or to participate in a learning experience without undue obstacles or hindrances.

1 Does the proposed degree, program, major, minor, concentration, or course involve mobility? Yes [ ] No [X]

If yes, choose one of the following?

- Domestic Mobility (both jurisdictions are within Canada) [ ]
- International Mobility (one jurisdiction is outside of Canada) [ ]

2 Please indicate the mobility type (refer to Nomenclature for definitions).

- Joint Program [ ]
- Joint Degree [ ]
- Dual Degree [ ]
- Professional Internship Program [ ]
- Faculty-Led Course Abroad [ ]
- Term Abroad Program [ ]

3 The U of S enters into partnerships or agreements with external partners for the above mobility types in order to allow students collaborative opportunities for research, studies, or activities. Has an agreement been signed? Yes [ ] No [ ]

4 Please state the full name of the agreement that the U of S is entering into.

5 What is the name of the external partner?

6 What is the jurisdiction for the external partner?

Section 8: Course Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Is there a new subject area(s) of course offering proposed for this new degree? If so, what is the subject area(s) and the suggested four (4) character abbreviation(s) to be used in course listings?

2 If there is a new subject area(s) of offerings what College / Department is the academic authority for this new subject area?

3 Have the subject area identifier and course number(s) for new and revised courses been cleared by the Registrar?

4 Does the program timetable use standard class time slots, terms, and sessions? Yes ☐ No ☐

If NO, please describe.

If NO, a class schedule including the start and end dates, contact hours per week, and special requirements of classes, must be included in the submission package. Has a schedule been provided? Yes ☐ No ☐

5 Does this program require special consideration regarding the assignment of general classroom pool space? For example, is there foreseeable need, for pedagogical reasons, for dedicated space under a priority use agreement with the University Registrar's Office, or the need for specific types of space with particular technologies or set-ups? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, please describe the needs below. Note that the need for specific considerations regarding space will require further consultation with the Space Booking Office for general classroom pool space, and with Planning, Design, and Construction for non-teaching space.

NOTE: Please remember to submit a new "Course Creation Form" for every new course required for this new program / major. Attached completed "Course Creation Forms" to this document would be helpful.

Section 9: Admissions, Recruitment, and Quota Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP OTHER THAN NOTED

NOTE 1: This is for students applying to the Master of Science [MSC-T-GP] program and the Mechanical Engineering [ME] major.

NOTE 2: Students applying through this pathway will be eligible to apply during their 3rd or 4th year. Successful applicants will be conditionally accepted to the MSc in ME program.

NOTE 3: Students conditionally accepted through this pathway are not considered graduate students until term of admission to the MSc in ME program.

NOTE 4: Students will use a separate and considerably condensed application process from the usual one for the MSc program.

1 Which of the following applications do you expect this program to be included on? Choose ONE option only.

Graduate Certificate, Post-Graduate Diploma, Master's or PhD Degree	Yes	X
Bachelor's Degree, Diploma or Certificate (includes Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Arts and Science, Education, Edwards School of Business, Engineering, Kinesiology, and Certificate in Dental Assisting)	Yes	
Undergraduate program that requires previous post-secondary study (includes Colleges of Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Nutrition, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine)	Yes	
None of the above (this will require the creation of a new application)	Yes	

2 What is the first term to which the student can apply for admission?

202609 [September 2026]

3 What is the application deadline for each term(s) students can be admitted to?

Typically only consider September admissions.
January admissions are possible as exceptions if arrangements can be made for supervision and funding.

4 Is this new program a certificate (graduate or undergraduate level) or a non-degree level program? Yes [ ] No [X]

5 In which of the following situations can a student have this program on their record?

As their primary program.	Yes [ ]	No [ ]
As their secondary program.	Yes [ ]	No [ ]

6 For undergraduate programs, will students be admitted to one of the approved majors or an undeclared major?

7 For undergraduate programs, if there's more than one degree proposed (ex. 3Y and 4Y), which program/degree will students be admitted to?

8 Does this impact enrollment?

Expect a slight increase

9 How should Marketing and Student Recruitment handle initial inquiries about this proposal before official approval?

10 Can classes towards this program be taken at the same time as another program?

11 What are the admission qualifications? (IE. High school transcript required, grade 12 standing, minimum average, any required courses, etc.)

- Applicants will NOT need to provide any English requirement as completion of the BE in ME from USask will automatically satisfy the English requirement of the MSc in ME program.
- Two (2) letters of reference will be required with one (1) being academic and one (1) being either academic or professional.
- Minimum average of 80% in their course studies that count towards their undergraduate degree.

12 What is the selection criteria? (IE. If only average then 100% weighting; if other factors such as interview, essay, etc. what is the weighting of each of these in the admission decision.)

- Students will only be considered if they apply using the accelerated admission pathway and they are currently registered in their 3rd year of the BE in ME program and have a minimum average of 80% in their course studies that count towards their BE degree.
- List of applicants will be distributed to all faculty in the ME department.
- Faculty can relay to the Graduate Study Committee who they would like to supervise and indicate what level they can contribute toward funding.
- Faculty members can base their recommendations on a holistic fashion using the student's past grades, their CV, the specific courses taken by the student, the student's desired area of research, informal interviews if desired, and the letters of reference.
- The Graduate Study Committee will attempt to accept as many of these applicants as possibly by matching students to supervisors.
- Only applicants for whom there is a matching supervisor together with a full funding package will be conditionally accepted with the accelerated admission pathway.
- If more applicants than can be accepted, the Graduate Study Committee will rank applicants using the same holistic criteria mentioned above.
- The goal is to conditionally accept every student that satisfies the minimum criteria for whom a matching supervisor and funding can be found.

13 What are the admission categories and admit types? (IE. High school students and transfer students or one group? Special admission? Aboriginal equity program?)

Regular Admission
All students that the department decides to accept using the process above are given conditional admission. This will typically occur when students are in their 3rd or 4th year of their BE in ME degree. Students we decide to accept using the accelerated admission pathway will receive a letter offering conditional admission to the MSc in ME program.
It will offer:
1) summer work as a USRA (or as a departmental research hire) with funding and enrolment in a graduate course for the summer following conditional admission. They must maintain an average of at least 80% in their undergraduate courses
2) a conditional admission to the MSc in ME program starting that September if they are in their 4th year, or the following September if two years remain, on condition of:
· having completed the BE in ME program,
· having received the average grade of least 80% of their last 60CU course studies in their BE in ME program,
· having completed at least 3 CU graduate courses taken during their undergraduate program, with at least 70% in each course,
· if eligible, completing an application for NSERC PGS M postgraduate scholarship in their final year of undergraduate studies (the application need not be successful to meet the condition).

14 What is the application process? (IE. Online application and supplemental information (required checklist items) through the Admissions Office or sent to the College/Department?)

15 Who makes the admission decision? (IE. Admissions Office or College/Department/Other?)

Admissions are managed by the department and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

16 Letter of acceptance - are there any special requirements for communication to newly admitted students?

Conditional Admission

17 Will the standard application fee apply?

Yes

18 Will all applicants be charged the fee or will current, active students be exempt?

All applicants will be charged the application fee

19 Is there a tuition deposit required? Yes [ ] No [X]

NOTE: Tuition deposits are non-refundable.

If YES, what is the amount?

If YES, has it been approved by the Fee Review Committee?

20 Are international students admissible to this program? If YES, see Section 19 for Tuition and Fees information. Yes [X] No [ ]

NOTE

If YES and the program is an undergraduate program, a non-refundable tuition deposit of $1,000.00 will be required to accept the offer of admission.

This is part of the new (Jan. 22, 2024) study permit application process which includes a requirement of a Provincial Letter of Attestation (PAL) be included in the application. USask has an institutional quota for PALs.

These programs will impact our PAL allocations and could also be a limiting factor in some programs and our Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) plans.

Section 10: Government Loan Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

NOTE: Federal / provincial government loan programs require students to be full-time in order to be eligible for funding. The University of Saskatchewan defines full-time as enrollment in a minimum of 9 credit units (operational) in the fall and/or winter term(s) depending on the length of the loan.

1 If this is a change to an existing program, will the program change have any impact on student loan eligibility?

2 If this is a new program, do you intend that students be eligible for student loans?

Section 11: Convocation Information (only for new degrees) - NOT APPLICABLE

1 Are there any 'ceremonial consequences' of this proposal (ie. New degree hood, special convocation, etc.)?

2 If YES, has the University Governance Office been notified?

3 When is the first class expected to graduate?

4 What is the maximum number of students you anticipate/project will graduate per year (please consider the next 5-10 years)?

Section 12: Schedule of Implementation Information

1 What is the effective term?

202605 [May 2026]

2 Are students required to do anything prior to the above date (in addition to applying for admission)? Yes [ ] No [X]

If YES, what and by what date?

Section 13: Registration Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 What year in program is appropriate for this program (NA or a numeric year)?
(General rule = NA for programs and categories of students not working toward a degree level qualification; undergraduate degree level certificates will use numeric year.)

2 Will students register themselves? Yes ☐ No ☐
If YES, what priority group should they be in?

Section 14: Academic History Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Will instructors submit grades through self-serve? Yes ☐ No ☐
2 Who will approve grades (Department Head, Assistant Dean, etc.)?

Section 15: T2202 Information (tax form) - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Should classes count towards T2202s? Yes ☐ No ☐
Internship/Coop CRA Requirements
2 Is this an internship or coop program? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, proceed to the following questions.
3 Is the coop a requirement of the student's degree program? If this is a requirement of their degree proceed to the below questions; otherwise, no months are to be provided. Yes ☐ No ☐
4 Is the student required to work 10 hours per week on "work in the program" that is evaluated (i.e. graded) by someone from the University (for full time months) or 12 hours per month (for part-time months)? These hours would typically be over and above the hours worked for the 3rd party employer (see question 5 below). Yes ☐ No ☐
5 Is the "work in the program that is graded by USask" a minimum of 3 consecutive weeks? Yes ☐ No ☐
6
The work hours done in the coop for 3rd party employer typically, would not count unless it was graded by someone hired by USask. If it is graded by someone hired by USask, please explain exactly what is graded and how many hours approximately a student spends each week on these assignments (for full time months) or time spent each month (for part-time months).

Section 16: Awards Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Will terms of reference for existing awards need to be amended? Yes ☐ No ☐
2 If this is a new undergraduate program, will students in this program be eligible for College-specific awards?

Section 17: Government of Saskatchewan Graduate Retention (Tax) Program - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

1 Will this program qualify for the Government of Saskatchewan graduate retention (tax) program? Yes ☐ No ☐

To qualify the program must meet the following requirements:

- be equivalent to at least 6 months of full-time study, and
- result in a certificate, diploma, or undergraduate degree.

Section 18: Program, Major, Minor, or Concentration Termination

1 Is this a program, major, minor, or concentration termination? Yes [ ] No [X]

If yes, what is the name of the program, major, minor, or concentration?

2 What is the effective date of this termination?

3 Will there be any courses closed as a result of this termination? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, what courses?

4 Are there currently any students enrolled in the program, major, minor, or concentration? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, will they be able to complete the program, major, minor, or concentration?

5 If not, what alternate arrangements are being made for these students?

6 When do you expect the last student to complete this program, major, minor, or concentration?

7 Is there mobility associated with this program, major, minor or concentration termination? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, please select one of the following mobility activity types.

- Dual Degree Program [ ]
- Joint Degree Program [ ]
- Internship Abroad Program [ ]
- Term Abroad Program [ ]
- Taught Abroad Course [ ]
- Student Exchange Program [ ]

Partnership agreements, coordinated by the International Office, are signed for these types of mobility activities. Has the International Office been informed of this program termination? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Financial Appendix

Section 19: Proposed Tuition and Student Fees Information - AS PER CURRENT SET-UP

NOTE 1: Current tuition will be assessed. Students will pay the undergraduate per credit rate for all undergraduate courses and the standard graduate per credit rate for all graduate courses while registered in their Bachelor of Science in Engineering program.

1 How will tuition be assessed? (see NOTES below)

Standard Undergraduate per credit [ ]

Standard Graduate per credit	
Standard Graduate per term	
Non standard per credit*	
Non standard per term*	
Other *	
Program Based*	
Change to method of assessment for an existing program*	

* See attached documents for further details

Standard or Non-Standard Tuition, Term Structure, Refund Schedule and Course/Class Set-Up

NOTE: Standard tuition is using an existing rate AND existing method of assessment.

NOTE: Non-standard tuition is using a new rate OR a new method of assessment OR including 3rd party involvement.

NOTE: Standard means rate, development, and presentation do not vary from the norm or previously approved set-up for a college. Standard items are developed and maintained in a predictable manner. Non-standard programs, term structure, and courses are set-up based on variations, through consultation with colleges, the University Registrar's Office and other stakeholders, and can have the following:

* tuition being assessed at a rate other than one of the standard categories or rates
* a unique term structure
* courses have a discrepancy in academic credit, operational credit and/or billing hours (at least one of)
* a change deemed necessary via University Registrar's Office in order to accurately assess fees or status

2 If this is a change in the method of assessment, what is the effective date?

3 If tuition is per credit, does it conform to existing categories for per credit tuition? If YES, what category or rate?

N/A

4 If this is a change in the method of assessment, what is the current method of assessment and what is it changing to?

5 If program based tuition, how will it be assessed? By credit unit? By term?

6 If standard tuition, what is the rate?

7 What is the proposed non-standard rate? Standard currency is in Canadian dollars.

8 If per term, over how many Banner terms will tuition be assessed?

9 If per term, will students register in consecutive terms or will there be terms where students will not be registered? If graduate program/classes, is maintenance of status required?

10 If per term, will there be non-standard term start and end dates which require open learning class set-up? Please provide program start and end dates. Example - open learning class that spans more than one term. If this changes once program is approved, college/department/unit staff designation must inform Registrarial Services. (Example - clinical considerations or short class offerings like NURS or MBA.)

11 Which financial staff will be responsible for financial review and monitoring to ensure that college staff has appropriately operationalized, and that expected tuition revenue is assessed to students?

12 If contact hours are only 2 hours per week or less, what are the class build considerations?

13 For T2202 purposes if Registrarial Services staff have questions who is the contact?

14 Does the change affect the set-up of courses or classes? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, how?

For class build expectations against specific terms (such as MPT, CDA, MILBE), who will oversee class build, and who will check as a SBA/finance oversight?

For continuous class requirements required for continuous registration, who will oversee class build, and who will check as a SBA/finance oversight?

15 Will students outside the program be allowed to take the classes?

16 If YES, what should they be assessed? (This is especially important for program based.)

17 Do standard student fee assessment criteria apply (full-time, part-time, on-campus versus off-campus)?

18 Do standard cancellation fee rules apply?

19 Are you moving from one tuition code (TC) to another tuition code? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, from which tuition code to which tuition code and for which subject code(s)?

20 If non-standard tuition is assessed by USask, will a new TC code be required? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, what TC code will be assigned to courses/classes?

21 What CFOAPAL should be attached to the new TC code?

22 Are there any additional program or class fees (e.g. Program, materials, excursion)? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, what are they?

23 If international students are admissible to the program, will they pay the international tuition differential? If YES, explain the amount. Yes ☐ No ☐

24

If YES, what is the tuition amount for the first 12 months for a full-time international student? This information is required for the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [IRCC] form (this form is for students who need to get a visa to study here).

Internship/Co-op

25 Is the co-op a requirement of the student's degree program? If this is a requirement of their degree proceed to questions 2 to 4; otherwise, no months are to be provided. Yes ☐ No ☐

26 Is the student required to work 10 hours per week on "work in the program" that is evaluated (i.e. graded) by someone from the University (for full time months) or 12 hours per month for part-time months? These hours would typically be over and above the hours worked for the 3rd party employer (see last point in this section). Yes ☐ No ☐

27 Is the "work in the program that is graded by USask" a minimum of 3 consecutive weeks? Yes ☐ No ☐

28

The work hours done in the co-op for the 3rd party employer typically would not count unless it was graded by someone hired by USask. If it is graded by someone hired by USask, please explain exacting what is graded and how many hours approximately a student spends each week on those assignments (for full time months) or time spent each month (for part-time months)?

Third Party or Partner Information

29 Does this program involve a partnership with an external partner? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, what is the institution/partner name?

30 What type of contract is this? (See legend at the end of this section for detailed information.)

31 Has a contract been signed? Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: Contract must be signed before final approval will be granted and must be submitted to Registrarial Services for archiving.

32 Length of contract?

33 What college(s) or department(s) or unit(s) are academically/financially responsible for the contract?

34 Who is the financial contact (name and role) in the college responsible for contract negotiations, renewal, operationalization, and communication with all units, etc.? (Will oversee academic/class build questions to operationalize.)

35 Registration and financial clause expectations (legal ticks)

College invoice with 3rd party when services have been provided rather than USask collection from student and trying to reconcile back. (TC00) Yes ☐ No ☐

Do students require full-time student loan eligibility? Yes ☐ No ☐

Contract Code (complete if 3rd party has been identified)

36 Will a contract code need to be assigned to classes? Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: This is necessary if a process is attached to the contract that impacts where the tuition/fees go, or when an identifier is necessary against the classes. This may be a central administration identifier or an identifier used by colleges.

37 Contract code required to distinguish classes. (Example - AR assesses tuition (SUNTEP students taking, portion goes to program college and portion goes to the XXXX college, is it split?.) Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: This is for Provost's Office purposes/TABBS, college/SFA reconciling.

38 If YES to above, what is the purpose of the contract code on the class?

39 Who will bill?

40 Who is the class build staff that will oversee class build to ensure contract code gets added?

41 Identify the financial staff or department head who will ensure the class build is accurate.

NOTE: Please remember to submit a completed "Application for New Fee or Fee Change Form" for every new course with additional fees.

Contract Information

Type = C1
Name = Brokered
Class Build and Registration = No
CUs = N/A
Billing Hours = N/A
Tuition = No
Fees = No

T2202s = No
Detail Code = No
Revenue = N/A

Notes = Not built in Banner; all financial activity is completed by the contracting entity (e.g. Battleford Tribal Agency)

Type = C2
Name = Info Only
Class Build and Registration = Yes
CUs = Normal
Billing Hours = Normal
Tuition = Normal
Fees = Normal
T2202s = Normal
Detail Code = Normal
Revenue = Central (100% is retained by USask)
NOTES = Contract code is informational only and does not impact configuration or processes; will be treated in normal fashion for all processes.

Type = C3
Name = No Tuition or Fee Assessment
Class Build and Registration = Yes
CUs = Normal
Billing Hours = Normal
Tuition = No
Fees = No
T2202s = No
Detail Code = No
Revenue = No tuition/fee revenue
Notes = e.g. BJM Health Sciences Academy

Type = C4
Name = Fee Assessment Only
Class Build and Registration = Yes
CUs = N/A
Billing Hours = N/A
Tuition = No
Fees = Yes
T2202s = Yes
Detail Code = No
Revenue = No tuition revenue

Notes = Billing happens outside of central (e.g. SUNTEP and most Education agreements).

Type = C5
- Name = STM
- Class Build and Registration = Yes
- CUs = Normal
- Billing Hours = Normal
- Tuition = Normal
- Fees = Normal
- T2202s = Normal
- Detail Code = Yes (specific)
- Revenue = STM
- Notes = Unique agreement; contract code 33, STM tuition has it's own detail code and is paid out quarterly (completed by STM financial analyst).

Type = C6
- Name = Tuition Sharing
- Class Build and Registration = Yes
- CUs = Normal
- Billing Hours = Normal
- Tuition = Normal
- Fees = Normal
- T2202s = Normal
- Detail Code = Normal
- Revenue = Shared (could be 100% shared or less but not 100% retained by USask)
- Notes = Central (agreement with USask where specific colleges are not defined in agreement (e.g. GDI) or college(s) specific (DEU). Payments happen outside of tuition allocation (e.g. SFA calculates a pay requisition to GDI (contract code 17) and First Nations University Canada (FNUC - contract code 41).

Section 20: TLSE - Information Dissemination (internal for TLSE use only)

1	Has TLSE, Marketing and Student Recruitment, been informed about this new / revised program?	Yes		No	
2	Has TLSE, Admissions, been informed about this new / revised program?	Yes		No	
3	Has TLSE, Student Finance and Awards, been informed about this new / revised program?	Yes		No	
4	Has TLSE, Transfer Credit, been informed about any new / revised courses?	Yes		No	
5	Has ICT-Data Services been informed about this new or revised degree / program / major / minor / concentration?	Yes		No	
6	Has the Library been informed about this new / revised program?	Yes		No	
7	Has ISA been informed of the CIP code for new degree / program / major?	Yes		No	
8	Has Room Scheduling/Scheduling Hub/Senior Coordinator of Scheduling been informed of unique space requirements for the new courses and/or informed of program, course, college, and department changes?	Yes		No	
9	Has the Convocation Coordinator been notified of a new degree?	Yes		No	

10 What is the highest level of financial approval required for this submission? Check all that apply.

a. None - as it has no financial implications

OR

b. Fee Review Committee
c. Financial Strategy Office (FSA)
d. Office of the Provost
e. Board of Governors
f. Other

Disclaimer

By signing this document, you and your college signify responsibility for all agreed-upon class and student set-up in order to ensure the proper assessment and collection of this approved tuition amount. Failure to properly configure the student systems in the agreed upon method can result in additional work, loss of revenue, and cost for staff time to retroactively correct the error(s). Please note that identified errors greater than 4 terms will not be collected from students and all communications will be the responsibility of the college.

SIGNED

Date:

Acting Registrar (Salomé Ries):

College Representative(s):

Provost's Office Representative(s):

Associate Registrar (Academic) (Jason Doell):

Revised: June 27, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist

Date: October 20, 2025

Re: Accelerated MSc Admission Pathway (AMAP) in Mechanical Engineering

---

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices have reviewed and endorsed the proposal as proposed. The purpose of the review was twofold:

1) to understand the potential impact of the change on the enrolment in the program and college / school and alignment to the college/school strategic enrolment plan.
2) To understand the financial implications of the proposed change and the impact on the college / school financial situation.

Date	Reviewed By:	Communicated By:
October 20, 2025	Loleen Berdahl, Acting Deputy Provost	Kyla Shea