

ACOUSTICS

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Entering students should hold a bachelor's degree in physics, engineering, mathematics, or a closely related field that would provide substantial preparation in mathematics (a minimum of two semesters of calculus-based physics and mathematics to include complex variables and differential equations). In addition, an undergraduate knowledge of statics and dynamics, linear algebra, and electronic circuit analysis, and the ability to use mathematical analysis software is expected. Students with a 3.00 junior/senior average (on a 4.00 scale), appropriate course backgrounds, and a B+ or better average in mathematics, physical science, and engineering courses will be considered for admission. The best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces that are available for new students. An individual with nontechnical background may also apply, but acceptance into the program will depend significantly on the applicant's undergraduate background and motives to pursue advanced study in acoustics. Exceptions to the minimum 3.00 grade-point average may be made for students with special backgrounds and abilities.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores will be considered if provided, but they are neither required nor expected.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

In addition, the Acoustics Program requires a minimum speaking score on the TOEFL internet based test (iBT) of 25 or a minimum acceptable composite score from the International English Language Testing System of 6.5.

Admission to the Ph.D. program is a two-step process. First, the candidate must apply to the Acoustics Program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>) as a Ph.D. student, and the application is reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Admission will permit the student to begin working toward a doctoral degree. However, the student is not a doctoral candidate until he or she has passed the comprehensive examination and been admitted to candidacy.