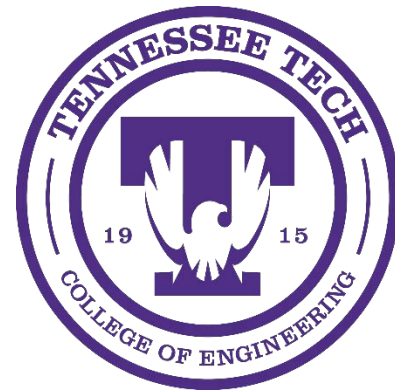


# College of Engineering Fast Track Programs

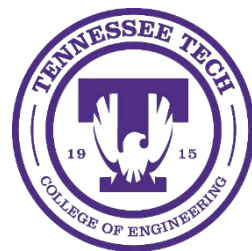
**Bill Eberle, Interim Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies**

<https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/fasttrack.php>



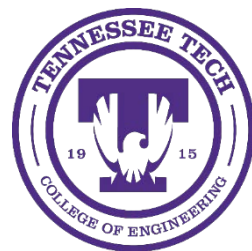
# Why a Masters?

- Learn more in-depth knowledge in a particular area or specialty
- New job opportunities
- Pathway to a PhD



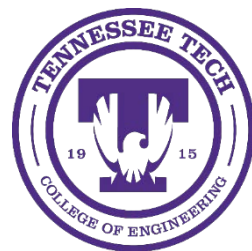
# What is Fast Track?

The Fast Track Program is designed to enable Tennessee Tech undergraduates to accumulate up to 6 credit hours of graduate credit while still pursuing their undergraduate degree and to transition to their graduate program smoothly, with accelerated completion.



# What are the Minimum Requirements for Applying for Fast Track?

- Enrolled at Tennessee Tech undergraduate with junior or senior standing, or will be entering junior year upon starting in the Fast Track program
- Be recommended by a faculty advisor
- Overall GPA of at least 3.25 and a GPA for major courses of at least:
  - Chemical Engineering: 3.25
  - Civil and Environment Engineering: 3.5
  - Computer Science: 3.5
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering: n/a
  - Mechanical Engineering: n/a

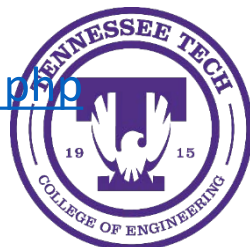


# How do I Apply for Fast Track?

- **Graduate Advisor:** The following College of Graduate Studies forms must be submitted for any Fast Track student requesting to take courses:
  - **First-time** course(s) taking (must be completed by advisor): [Fast Track Program Acceptance and Course Credit Form](#) \*\*\*
  - **Existing** Fast Track student course request after first semester in program (must be completed by advisor): [Fast Track Course Credit Form](#)
  - **NOTE:** Both of the above links are off the College of Graduate Studies Fast Track page: <https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/fasttrack.php>
- Additional courses beyond the initial 6 hours (students may initiate form – up to 9 additional hours at the graduate level may be taken): [Request for Undergraduate or Graduate Credit Form](#)
  - **NOTE:** The above link is found off the College of Graduate Studies - Online Forms page: <https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/forms.php>

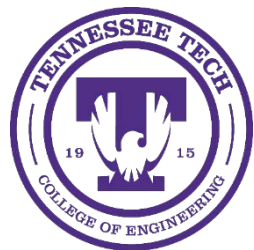
\*\*\* CS students must first fill out the CS Application Form – refer to:

<https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/csc/undergraduate-program.php>



# What Courses Should I Take in Fast Track?

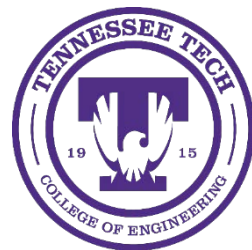
- Only allowed to take 9 hours at the 5xxx level for a Masters
- Get advised by your advisor!
  - Will depend upon your targeted specialization
  - Some 4000/5000 level courses may not work in your major's Program of Study
  - Make sure the course(s) also count towards your undergraduate degree (in its Program of Study)
- You must get a “B” or better in a fast-track course in order to get the graduate credit for that course.



# How Can I Accelerate Getting my Masters?

- Typical course load for Masters students:
  - First semester: 10 hours\*\*
  - Second semester: 9 hours
  - Third semester: 9 hours (or 6 hours for thesis)
  - Fourth semester: 6 hours
- Taking 6 fast-track hours reduces the number of required Masters credits from 31 to 25 (thesis) or 34 to 28 (project/courses-only)\*\*\*
- Potentially complete in 3 semesters
- **NOTE:** Fast-track hours are NOT transferable to other institutions for graduate credit.

\*\*\* some majors have it at 30 and 33 hours, with a non-credit seminar course



# Can I Take Additional Graduate Courses?

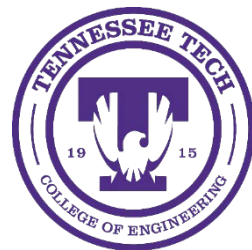
- **Yes!** Up to 9 additional **graduate-credit-only** hours.
- Taking 9 more additional graduate hours (i.e., 6 + 9) reduces the number of required Masters credits from 31 to 16 (thesis) or 34 to 19 (project/courses-only)
  - *Potentially* complete in 2 semesters (plus possibly a summer to work on project/thesis)
- **Note:** Because these courses would be for graduate-only credit, they can NOT be counted in CPoS (used for undergraduate financial aid)





# Other Cool Information You Didn't Know

- Don't fret - You do NOT need to be in fast-track to take graduate-only courses while you are an undergraduate.
  - BUT, taking graduate courses requires the approval of your advisor AND the course instructor
- While an undergraduate, you pay undergrad costs even if it is a graduate course!
  - Amounts to a ~\$900 per 3-hour course savings (\$199/hour in tuition + \$108/hour in fees)!
  - *That is a potential savings (6 hours of fast-track and 9 hours of graduate-only) of ~\$4500 !!*



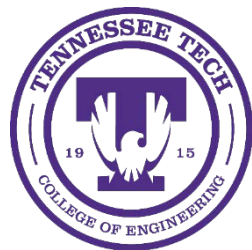
# IN SUMMARY....

## What is it?

- Path for high-achieving students to earn undergraduate credit that could shorten the length of their graduate program.

## What is it NOT?

- Admission into the graduate program.



# Questions?

- Chemical Engineering:  
[https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/che/fasttrack\\_che.php](https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/che/fasttrack_che.php)
- Civil and Environment Engineering:  
<https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/cee/fasttrack.php>
- Computer Science:  
<https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/csc/undergraduate-program.php>
- Electrical and Computer Engineering:  
<https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/ece/graduate/ms-program.php>
- Mechanical Engineering:  
<https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/programs/me/fasttrack.php>

