

Proposal for the Creation of a Procedure to Transfer Top Undergraduate SOE Students into Graduate Programs in Engineering

Submitted by: Haim Baruh, Graduate Program Director, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, on behalf of all graduate program directors in engineering, as well as Dean M.T. Klein.

The graduate program directors in engineering have met several times and have decided to submit the following proposal, after they presented their idea at the last School of Engineering faculty meeting on Nov. 4, 2006, and received the approval of the SOE faculty.

RATIONALE

Currently, a Rutgers engineering undergraduate who wants to attend graduate school at Rutgers must submit a formal application to GSNB. Three graduate programs in engineering have arrangements with GSNB where the GRE requirement is waived for a top Rutgers undergraduate. A formal application is still required. It is desirable to have an even more seamless way, one that is almost entirely transparent to the student, to transfer the student from an undergraduate program to a graduate program. Reasons:

- 1) To make it easier for our top students to attend graduate school.
- 2) To put in the minds of our undergraduate students, from the day they enroll at Rutgers, that graduate school is an option and to encourage them to get involved working in labs, to conduct undergraduate research and to increase their contacts with faculty.
- 3) To enable students to receive an M.S. or M.Eng. degree in an accelerated time frame.
- 4) The National Academy of Engineering has written a report that describes the deficiencies of just having a B.S. degree when the amount of material that engineers need to learn has increased quite a bit. Seamless transition to graduate school will raise awareness among students about graduate school and will make it easier (from a procedural point of view, without changing academic standards) for them to attend graduate school.

PROCEDURE

An internal mechanism will be created so that the record of an SOE student will be transferred, through the Graduate Registrar, to the appropriate graduate program. The Graduate Program Director of an engineering program will submit the recommendation to graduate admissions and upon approval the student's files will be transferred. The accepted student will be told that upon completion of their undergraduate studies in a timely fashion and if they maintain their high grades that they will automatically become graduate students.

Graduate programs will outline to their students ways of expediting their studies so that the M.S. or M.Eng. degrees can be earned in a reduced time frame, such as by enrolling in a Slade Scholars project, which can count for six graduate credits, or to take graduate level courses (exceeding the number of credits required for the B.S. degree) while an undergraduate. Also, an undergraduate student involved in research can continue his/her work as a graduate student, giving them a head start in graduate research.