

Comparison of BIOE and BME Programs

This table is designed for incoming students who are trying to decipher the difference between choosing to pursue a BioEngineering (BioE) or a BME (or BME-PKU) degree. You'll have the opportunity to learn much more about each program at the recruiting event in March. If desired, you can change programs as late as the start of the first week of classes in August.

The BioE Program is an interdisciplinary program encompassing various schools/departments at Georgia Tech and Emory. BioE students enter via a "home school/department" with which they are connected for administrative purposes (e.g., AE, BME, ChBE, CE, CoC, ECE, ME, or MSE). BME is the acronym for both the department and primary Ph.D. program of Biomedical Engineering.

	BioE	BME
Curriculum	Personalized. Course selected based on student's research and interests.	Customizable based on broad research areas.
Advisor	Emory and GT professors that encompass many different engineering schools & departments (including BME) but are all affiliated with BioE.	Emory and GT professors that are affiliated with the BME program.
Emory Classes	Cannot be more than 15% of your total coursework, and can be taken any semester.	Unlimited. Typically 2-3 fundamental classes are taken at Emory.
Qualification Exams	January of 2 nd year. Exam is personalized to student's background and research.	May of 1 st year

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	BioE	BME
Degree Acquired	GT Bioengineering degree (regardless of home school)	GT and Emory joint Biomedical Engineering degree (one diploma with both seals)
Choosing Advisor	Preferences turned into BioE Program. Matching system. Note: Students can work with ANY BioE faculty, regardless of home school.	Preferences turned into BME department. Matching system. Choose from any BME program-affiliated faculty as described above.
PKU Program Participation	N/A	Specific PKU major must be chosen. Will receive a joint degree from GT, Emory, and Peking University (one diploma with three seals).
Teaching Practicum	Home school requirements, typically 1 semester.	2 Semesters of training and service required.
Emory Student Status	Database Access, Social Events, Facilities, and ID only for semesters when you take courses at Emory.	Parking Pass, Database Access, Social Events, Facilities, ID throughout your time as a student. BME students have full status at Emory.

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Associated Student Organizations	BBUGS and BGA (Bioengineering Graduate Advisory committee)	BBUGS (Bioengineering & Bioscience Unified Graduate Students), BME GSAB (Graduate Student Advisory Board), and wBME (women of BME).
Stipend	Home School Rate	BME Rate
Fellowships/Training Grants	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Seminar Participation	Follow home school requirements	Required for 4 semesters.
Annual Student Awards	Petit Institute Awards, Outstanding Thesis, Outstanding Paper, Chris Ruffin Award	Outstanding Teaching/Mentorship, Outstanding Fundamental/Basic Research, Outstanding Translational Research, Outstanding Entrepreneurship, Outstanding Departmental Service, Outstanding Community Service, Petit Institute Awards

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Integrative Core	NA	6 credits (Choice of two courses among several focused on integrating bioscience and engineering concepts)
Biological/biomedical Sciences	9 credit hours (46 approved courses)	18 credit hours combined, with flexibility based on previous undergraduate and/or masters studies
Engineering Fundamentals	9 credit hours (103 approved courses)	
Math	3 credits required	3 credits recommended
Technical Electives	12 credits of Bioengineering or Technical Electives	Optional based on individual Programs of Study
Minor (GT requirement)	9 credit hours (can use classes from above categories)	9 credit hours (can use classes from above categories)
Advanced Seminar	N/A	3 Credits (Choice of one course among research application areas)
Total Credit Requirements	33 credits	34 credits

If you have any questions you may contact the following administrators:

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Updated February 2015