

Guidelines for Prospective Graduate Students
Applying to the Microelectronic Engineering at
Rochester Institute of Technology

We appreciate your interest in graduate studies in Microelectronic Engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology. However, in order for the department to admit and/or offer financial support to deserving students with the potential to be successful, a prospective student should be well aware of the programs and expectations of the department.

1. Make yourself well aware of the field of microelectronics (semiconductor devices and processes, integrated circuits). Visit the Department of Microelectronic web site and understand the difference between [MS and ME programs](#) in Microelectronic Engineering (www.microe.rit.edu). Also understand the difference between Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Information Technology.
2. Our programs are strong in semiconductor devices/components/circuits fabrication. Our graduate programs teach semiconductor technology – IC design, lithography, processing, simulation & modeling, test and characterization. Our research relates to advanced semiconductor processes, devices, and Microsystems engineering. These are experimental fields that rely on sound fundamental knowledge of math, physics, chemistry, optics, computer and EE. Expect and prepare for substantial state of the art **laboratory experience**.
3. It is important for the admissions committee to be convinced of your genuine interest in your chosen field of research. In most cases it is not only the strong intent, but also a sound background and academic preparation that really decide on how successful a student will be at grad school. For example, one cannot simply say "I want to work in the field of microelectronics or nanotechnology because these are very exciting topics" or because "I have read a paper on the topic". Genuine enthusiasm should ideally be complemented by some specific background study or research over a certain period of time that has strengthened your interest. A sound study of the discipline and the program should be reflected in your **Statement of Purpose**. You should make an effective case

"why should Microelectronic Program at RIT admit and fund your graduate education?"

4. Your Statement of purpose should not be dwelling on your academic GPA. This information is obtained from your transcripts and recommendation letters.
5. It is also important for you to highlight how your intended graduate education will contribute towards a healthy growth of the department, of the semiconductor industry and the community you intend to serve.
6. The education and the facilities that we offer at RIT are of the highest standards and it is expected that in addition to theoretical learning, students are prepared to take on **hands-on experimental learning** to make a strong contribution by way of research projects and well-compiled Theses.
7. Funded students are expected to serve as Teaching Assistants and/or Research Assistants. For these appointments, **communication skills** are very important. These include spoken language and writing skills in English.
8. The most important aspect is our commitment to **ethics and integrity. Any violation of ethics such as plagiarism or fraudulent information in your application is subject to rejection regardless of your academic grades or GRE scores.**