Incoming students may choose one of two options for earning their Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering: (1) The Thesis option or the (2) Coursework option. Students must declare which option they are pursuing when applying to UMass. Students may only switch programs with the permission of the MIE Graduate Program Director.

The requirements of the Coursework option are:

1) The student must successfully complete at least 30 graduate (500 level or above) credits.
2) At least 21 credits must be at the 600 level or above.
3) At least 21 credits must be Mechanical and Industrial Engineering courses.
4) A maximum of 6 credits can be for independent study.
5) The student must take four of the MIE Core courses (see the Thesis option description for a listing).
6) Credits that apply to any other degree program, with the exception of graduate certificate programs, cannot be applied to this degree.

Master's students who select the coursework option will not usually be considered for assistantships or tuition waivers.