

Distance FAQs

Question: What is the cost of graduate school by distance education?

Answer: The 2011/12 cost is \$995 per credit hour, so that will be approximately 12 grand for the explosives engineering certificate and 30 grand for the masters in explosives engineering. This is favorable compared to being out of state and coming to campus to do the degree (including cost of living in Rolla). Because you do not have to forgo your salary and lifestyle whilst pursuing their degree, distance learning is ideal for professionals in well paying jobs. Because it usually takes far longer to do the degree part time by distance, the payments are spread over a longer period of time, making it much more affordable. In addition employers often pay a substantial portion of tuition. The down side is not being able to actively participate in hands on application at S&T. However, some of our distance students fly in for the commercial pyro class (one weekend per month for Sept, Oct, & Nov) and/or take a leave of absence for a single semester to be on campus to gain the hands on experience and/or do research.

Question: I graduated with a BS in Civil engineering from Penn State five years ago but don't have a GPA high enough for graduate school. Is there a way for me to get into your master's program.

Answer: There actually is. There are 3 routes into the MS program: First, with a 3.0 you can be admitted as a regular student. Second with a 2.75 or better you can be admitted as a probationary student which means that you are required to maintain a 3.0 average for the first 12 hours to get off probation. Thirdly, with a GPA less than 2.75 you may be admitted into the Post Graduate Certification Program ([see the grad info page](#)), in which you are required to obtain a B grade or better in each of your explosives classes for the 12 credit hour certificate. Once complete you are then eligible to be considered for application to the masters program. The post graduate explosives certificate is an excellent option providing a route of entry into the masters program for applicants with engineering degrees and significant industrial experience and/or accomplishments. This is because the performance of students who had low undergraduate GPA often considerably improves after being in industry for a few years. As a bonus the classes used for the postgraduate certificate may also be used for the first 12 hours of the masters. (for specific details on the regulations covering this see the current S&T graduate catalog).