A Guide to Graduate Programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering
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January 3, 2001

Welcome!
- What do I need to know?
- What should I do first?
- What do I have to do later?
- What are the pitfalls to watch out for?

Who's in charge here?
- Purdue Graduate School - acts for the entire university
- ECE Graduate Committee - sets School of ECE Policy
- ECE Graduate Coordinator - counsels students and implements rules set by Graduate Committee

We're here to help!
- ECE Graduate Office - Rm. EE 135
  - Matt Golden (goldenm) - registration, plans of study
  - Alicia Fleener (ecegrad) - applications
  - Prof. Dan Elliott (ecegc) - Grad Coordinator
  - Prof. Andy Weiner - Director of Graduate Admissions (oneadmit)

What to do first
- Review ECE Program Handbooks (MS or PhD) for degree requirements.
- Tentatively select first semester courses from Advanced Planning List, Spring Class Schedule, and Area Flow Charts.
- Study list of ECE Graduate Areas and Faculty Interests to find faculty with interests common to yours.
  [Refer to http://ece.web.ece.purdue.edu/ECE/Graduate/ for each of these documents]

Then
- Visit three faculty to discuss first semester choices (Be prepared for these visits).
- Come to ECE Graduate Office (EE 135) to complete your registration.
- Pay your fees.
- Please make sure we have your ECN login, mailbox, and local address and telephone number.
What to do this semester - Master's students

- Select Major Professor and Advisory Committee. (3 members, usually all are ECE faculty. Your committee should include 1 member from your ECE related area.)
- Submit Plan of Study (document outlining your path to your degree) prior to mid-semester.

What to do this semester - Ph.D. students

- Select Academic Advisory Committee. (3 members from ECE. This committee does not necessarily include your ultimate Major Professor.)
- Submit Preliminary Plan of Study prior to mid-semester.
- Begin talking to faculty about research.
- Select Major Professor during second semester.

Registration requirements

- You must submit your Plan of Study prior to registering for 2nd semester.
- Registration begins around the middle of the previous semester.
- Early registration is important!

Registration requirements (Cont.)

- One semester of EE 694A Graduate Seminar is required. (Take it as early as possible!)
- Ph.D. students must register for EE 699 starting in their 3rd quarter.
- Written English requirement (ENGL 002 for int'l students) or ENGL 101 (domestic students). If you have not already satisfied it - take it as early as possible!

Graduate Areas within ECE

- Automatic Control
- Biomedical Engineering
- Communications and Signal Processing
- Computer Engineering
- Fields and Optics
- Energy Sources and Systems
- Solid State Devices and Materials
- VLSI and Circuit Design

Your Plan of Study non-thesis Master's degree

- 30 credit hours of course work
- At least 15 credit hours of ECE courses
- 2 core courses
- 2 math courses
- May include up to 2 transfer courses.
Should I do a Master’s thesis?

Maybe No!
- Perhaps you want more coursework than is typical for Thesis students (6 - 8 courses).
- Concentrate on courses now, start research at Ph.D. level after you know more.
- Can gain research experience via EE 696 project.

Should I do a Masters thesis?

Maybe Yes!
- Valuable experience that is unavailable from the classroom.
- Find out what research is like.
- Work closely with a faculty member.
- Find out if the Ph.D. is right for you?
- Identify source of support.

Treat core courses (EE600 - EE610) with respect.
- They’re difficult!
- They form basis for advanced graduate courses in each area.
- Masters students must have B average in core courses.
- They are an important component of Ph.D. Qualifying Exam (QE).

Your Plan of Study Ph.D. degree
- No specific course requirements for primary area.
- 4 courses in an ECE related area. (2 beyond Master’s)
- 3 courses in Math related area. (2 beyond Master’s)
- Keep Qualifying Exam in mind when choosing courses.
- List all relevant Master’s coursework on Ph.D. POS.
- Do not list “repeat” courses on your POS.
- May include up to 2 transfer courses.

Qualifying Exam
- Must be taken by all Ph.D. students before 4th (6th) semester.
- Offered each January and August.
- Specific rules on QE may be obtained in ECE Grad Office.

Don’t worry.
Your Plan of Study is easy to change.
How many courses should I take?

- Normal full-time load for a graduate student is 3 courses/semester (or 2 courses plus TA or RA).
- Don't take 2 core courses your first semester.
- Maximum of 1 CS course per semester.
- Maximum of 9 credit hours if you are an ECE TA.

How late can I drop courses?

- Weeks 1-2 - no record
- Weeks 3-4 - W on record
- Weeks 5-9 - signature of instructor and Graduates Coordinator, W or WF on record
- Very important: be sure to confirm that the drop was processed by checking SSINFO.

Health Insurance

- Three separate programs:
  - Graduate staff
  - U.S. students
  - International students
- See Business Office or PUSH for additional information.

How do I find TA or RA support?

- Do well in your courses.
- Talk to faculty.
- Apply for a TA position midway through semester.
- Improve your communication skills.
- Watch for opportunities elsewhere on campus.
- Be flexible.
- Be patient.

What's on the web?

- ECE
  - http://ECE.wwwecn.purdue.edu/ECE/
  - Links to most ECE program documentation
  - Links to faculty web pages
- Graduate School
  - http://www.purdue.edu/GradSchool/
  - Links to helpful info, including employment manual

What's on the web? (Cont)

- Short courses
  - http://www.purdue.edu/PUCC/Short-Courses
- ECE offices and mailboxes
  - http://ECE.wwwecn.purdue.edu/ECE/
  - People/directory
- ISS
  - http://www.purdue.edu/OIP/iss/
Student Organizations

- ECE Graduate Students Association
- Eta Kappa Nu (HKN)
- Engineering Student Council
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
- Society of Professional Engineers
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
- Women in Engineering, Mentors and Mentees

Standard of Ethical and Academic Conduct

The ECE school has, as its primary goal, the education and development of its students, faculty, and staff, the discovery of new knowledge, and service to the university, state, and nation. These goals can only be attained when the members of the ECE community adhere to a high standard of ethical and academic conduct. Any activity which might unfairly improve a student's score in a class or jeopardize the integrity of research programs or results will be considered dishonest, and will not be tolerated. See http://www.purdue.edu/oos/ccode.htm.