Master’s Program Handbook

Electrical and Computer Engineering
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1 INTRODUCTION

This handbook contains information about the Master’s program offered by the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at Purdue. Included is relatively detailed information about degree requirements, minimum academic standards, the advisory committee, the plan of study, registration, and the Master’s thesis.

A strength of the academic component of the Master’s program at Purdue is that each student creates his/her own plan of study (POS), a document that defines each student’s academic program. The degree requirements, which have elements of depth and breadth, afford flexibility for developing a plan of study that best suits your needs and goals. The information in this handbook is intended to assist you in setting up your plan of study and advisory committee. In developing your plan of study, you should consult with your advisory committee, in particular your major advisor. Your plan of study requires the approval of all advisory committee members, as well as the approval of the ECE Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate School.

Students in the Master’s program must identify an ECE Primary Area from the eight defined areas listed in Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Area</th>
<th>Core Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automatic Control (AC)</td>
<td>ECE 60200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Imaging and Sensing (BE)</td>
<td>ECE 60000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Networks and Signal and Image Processing (CS)</td>
<td>ECE 60000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Engineering (CE)</td>
<td>ECE 60800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields and Optics (FO)</td>
<td>ECE 60400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microelectronics and Nanotechnology (MN)</td>
<td>ECE 60600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power and Energy Devices and Systems</td>
<td>ECE 61000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLSI and Circuit Design (VC)</td>
<td>ECE 55900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entries in the second column of Table 1 are the core courses associated with each of the eight ECE areas. Within ECE, the Primary Area is defined as one of the above eight areas closest to your interests or thesis research. Courses outside of your Primary Area are to be considered as part of one or more Related Areas. On your plan of study the courses are to be identified as belonging to either the ECE Primary or ECE Related Areas.

Incoming students are required to select the MS-only or MS/PhD track and the thesis or non-thesis option. Students with any intention of continuing on for a PhD are encouraged to select the MS/PhD track. The essential difference between the two tracks is an emphasis in the MS/PhD track on an early involvement in research activities. Students who enter the Master’s program under the MS-only or MS/PhD designation are fully eligible to subsequently transfer to the alternative track. Students on either track who desire to continue on for a PhD must apply for admission to the PhD program.

In addition to this handbook, there are other resources available in the ECE Graduate Office (located in Room 140 of the MSEE Building) and on the ECE Graduate Program website (https://engineering.purdue.edu/ECE/Graduates).
2 MASTER’S DEGREES

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering offers a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering (MSECE) degree.

The MSECE degree is awarded to students who satisfy the requirements of the ECE Master’s program.

Students whose undergraduate degrees are in a field of science or engineering other than Electrical and Computer Engineering may pursue graduate degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering, but they are responsible for acquiring the undergraduate material that forms the prerequisites for the specific graduate courses in their plans of study.

3 DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Course and Credit-Hour Requirements

Total and ECE Graduate-Level Credit Hours
All students must complete a total of 30 credit hours selected by the student and approved by the advisory committee. At least 15 of the credit hours must be graduate-level ECE credit hours.

Undergraduate Credit Hours

Students in special situations, such as those changing or needing to get into a new discipline for their research who if they have to take a graduate level course in the new discipline would have great difficulty may be allowed to include one or two undergraduate courses in their plans of study. Students wanting or needing to refresh their knowledge of a subject which they have taken in their undergraduate studies should take the undergraduate course, but not include it on their plans of study to satisfy the degree requirements.

With proper prior permission, a maximum of 6 credit hours of two advanced-level (30000- or 40000-level) undergraduate courses taken in the first calendar year of a student’s program are allowed on the plan of study.

- Students must request permission to include undergraduate courses on their Master’s POS. They are required to provide a short written academic justification for the inclusion of the undergraduate courses.
- Undergraduate courses on the POS must be specifically approved by the student’s advisory committee and the ECE Graduate Coordinator.
- Credit for undergraduate courses may not be transferred from another institution. The Graduate School requires that the course(s) be taken while the student is enrolled in the Graduate Program, and that the student must earn a grade of “B” or better in these courses to fulfill graduation requirements.
- The computation of a student’s GPA will include the grades earned in these undergraduate level courses.
Core Course Requirement
The area core courses cover introductory material essential to the respective ECE research area. Students must successfully complete a minimum of two core courses to ensure at least a limited breadth of knowledge within the program. Regional campus courses or transfer courses may not be used toward the core course requirement.

Math Requirement
A minimum of 6 approved math credit hours is required when electing the non-thesis option and 3 approved math credit hours when electing the thesis option. The approved mathematics, statistics, computer science, and physics courses meeting the math requirement are given in Appendix A.

Research Credit Requirement
Research credit hours are not required for students on the MS-only track and pursuing the non-thesis option. However, a maximum of 3 credit hours of ECE 69600 (Advanced Projects) and/or ECE 69700 (Directed Reading) are allowed on their POS.

Students on the MS/PhD track pursuing the non-thesis option are required to register for at least one credit hour of research credit, either ECE 69200 (Introduction to Graduate Research), ECE 69600 (Advanced Projects) or ECE 69700 (Directed Reading), during their first three sessions of enrollment, completing a total of at least 6 credit hours during their program. A maximum of 6 ECE 69200, ECE 69600 and/or ECE 69700 credit hours is allowed on their POS, but only 3 of the credit hours can be counted toward the graduate-level ECE 15 credit-hour requirement.

Students pursuing the thesis option, whether on the MS-only or MS/PhD track, are required to register for ECE 69800 research (thesis) credits. Up to 12 hours of ECE 69800 are allowed on the POS. Students should check with their Major Professor to determine the number of ECE 69800 hours appropriate for their program. ECE 69800 hours qualify as ECE graduate-level credit hours and may be used to satisfy the ECE graduate-level 15 credit-hour requirement. ECE 69600 and ECE 69700 credit hours are not allowed on the POS of students pursuing the thesis option.

Summary of Course and Credit-Hour Requirements
Table 2 summarizes the preceding course and credit-hour requirements.

Table 2: Summary of Course and Credit-Hour Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MS Only</th>
<th></th>
<th>MS/PhD Track</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Thesis</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>PhD Prep</td>
<td>Non-Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Core Courses</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Math Courses</td>
<td>6 credit hours</td>
<td>3 credit hours</td>
<td>6 credit hours</td>
<td>3 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed 69600/69700</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Required</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate-Level ECE</td>
<td>Can Include</td>
<td>Includes 69800</td>
<td>Includes 3 hrs 69</td>
<td>Includes 69800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3 hrs 69600/69700</td>
<td></td>
<td>69600/69700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Cr. Hrs. on</td>
<td>30 hrs</td>
<td>30 hrs Min of 18 hrs</td>
<td>30 hrs</td>
<td>30 hrs Min of 18 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan of Study</td>
<td></td>
<td>non-thesis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Other Requirements

Graduate Seminar Requirement
All ECE graduate students must satisfactorily complete one semester of the ECE Seminar, ECE 69400. This course carries no credit but a grade of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory is assigned at the end of the semester. ECE 69400 should not be listed on the plan of study. Also, it is strongly recommended that students take EE 69400 during their first year.

Responsible Conduct of Research Course Requirement
All ECE graduate students must satisfactorily complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course. This is an online course offered through Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). The course should be completed during the first semester of graduate studies. When the course has been completed the student should submit a copy of the certificates of completion to the ECE Graduate Office. The link to the course is: https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english

Residency Requirement
The residency requirement for a master’s degree is 30 hours of academic credit. Academic credit includes all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of “C-” or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research hours with grades of “S” that appear on the Purdue transcript.

At least one-half of the total credit hours used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned in residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted. Course credits obtained via televised instruction are considered to have been obtained in residence on the campus from which the course was broadcast.

English Requirement
All ECE graduate students must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in written English before admission. Methods that may be used to fulfill the English requirement are detailed in Appendix B.

4 MINIMUM ACADEMIC STANDARDS

4.1 ECE Academic Standards

As a Master’s student in ECE, you are expected, throughout your academic program, to achieve the following standards:

- Maintain a POS grade point average, based on your currently approved POS, of at least 3.00 out of 4.00 over the courses on your plan of study, with no grade less than “C-”;
- Earn grades of “Satisfactory” in thesis research credit hours;
- Satisfactorily complete the EE 69400 seminar and the written English proficiency requirement within the first two semesters of your academic program;
- Make continuous and significant progress each semester toward completion of your degree requirements; and
- Complete all degree requirements and graduate within three years after entering the ECE graduate program (five years for distance learning students).

You will be placed on ECE academic probation if you complete any semester or summer session with a deficiency in any of the above standards. Should you remain on ECE academic
probation at the end of the succeeding semester or summer session, and at the discretion of the Graduate Coordinator, you may be prohibited from registering for further graduate study. Students concerned about their academic progress should schedule an appointment with the ECE Graduate Coordinator.

As noted above, the cumulative POS grade point average is calculated using the courses on your plan of study. However, transfer courses and graduate-level courses taken while an undergraduate student are not included in the computation. In the case of a deficiency in the cumulative POS grade point average, courses may be repeated. If a course is repeated, only the most recent grade received will be used in computing the index.

University requirements state that no grade of “D” or “F” is allowed in a course on the plan of study. Any plan of study course in which a grade of “D” or “F” is received must be repeated and completed successfully; it cannot be dropped from the plan of study.

4.2 University Academic Standards

Academic Probation and Deficiency
   A. Academic Probation

   • A student at Purdue University shall be placed on academic probation if his/her fall or spring semester or cumulative GPA at the end of any fall or spring semester is less than a 2.0.
   • A student on academic probation shall be removed from that standing at the end of the first subsequent fall or spring semester in which he/she achieves semester and cumulative GPAs equal to or greater than 2.0.
   • Any grade change due to a reporting error will result in a recalculation of the GPA and determination of probation standing.
   • Academic standing will not be assessed in summer sessions.

   B. Dropping of Students for Academic Deficiency

   • A student on academic probation shall be dropped from the University at the close of any fall or spring semester in which his/her semester and cumulative GPA is less than a 2.0.
   • Any grade change due to a reporting error will result in a recalculation of the GPA and determination of drop status.

   C. Readmission

   • A student who is academically dropped from the University for the first time is not eligible to enroll for at least one fall or spring semester. A student who is academically dropped for the second time is not eligible to enroll for at least one year.
   • A student dropped by this rule must apply to the appropriate office or readmission committee for the Purdue campus of choice. A fee is assessed for processing the readmission application (Board of Trustees Minutes, June 5-6, 1970). Readmission is not guaranteed, but any student who gains readmission is readmitted on probation and is subject to stipulations in effect as a condition of readmission.
5  MASTER’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Your Master’s Advisory Committee shall consist of a minimum of three faculty members. The duties of this committee are to assist you in the preparation of the plan of study, advise you on research related to the Master’s thesis, and conduct examinations on the Master’s thesis. You must select a Major Professor who will serve as the Chair of the advisory committee. The Major Professor/student relationship must be a mutually acceptable one. With the advice and approval of your Major Professor, you will select the remaining members of your advisory committee.

For the following rules and guidelines on the composition and make-up of your advisory committee, tenure-track, courtesy, and research professors with regular graduate certification by West Lafayette ECE are to be regarded as members of the West Lafayette ECE faculty:

- The Major Professor must be a member of the West Lafayette ECE faculty and should be a member of the Primary Area that you have declared.
- If you have selected the thesis option and two advisors guide your research jointly, it may be advisable to have two co-chairs on your advisory committee rather than a single chair. At least one of these co-chairs must be a member of the West Lafayette ECE faculty and should be a member of the Primary Area that you have declared.
- At least one member of the advisory committee must be from your Primary Area, and another member should be from your ECE Related Area.
- A majority of your advisory committee must be composed of tenure-track professors with 50% or more appointment on the ECE faculty at the West Lafayette campus.
- A special member, defined as a person without graduate faculty certification, may be added as the fourth member of the committee. An up-to-date list of faculty members with regular graduate faculty certification and their faculty identifiers is included in the online plan of study program. Faculty members at Purdue, including regional campuses, would have regular graduate faculty certification. Faculty members from other universities, researchers from industry, and non-faculty research staff from Purdue have to be approved for special certification by the Graduate School for them to be members of the advisory committee. You may initiate a request for special certification in the ECE Graduate Office. A current and complete vita for the special member has to be submitted along with your request.

The advisory committee, as agreed upon by you and your Major Professor, shall be presented to the ECE Graduate Coordinator and the Dean of the Graduate School for approval and formal appointment. The Dean may appoint additional members if it seems advisable. The advisory committee is established when the plan of study is approved. Changes to the advisory committee can be made online as a revision to your plan of study.

6  MASTER’S PLAN OF STUDY

All Master’s students must file a plan of study (POS) before the end of their first semester. This helps to ensure a logical curriculum early in the program, sets a clear pathway toward completion of the student’s degree, and helps the school plan and monitor the overall ECE graduate program. For this reason, registration for subsequent semesters is not permitted until the plan of study has been filed. If necessary, changes can be made to the plan of study at a later date, subject to the restrictions cited in Subsection 6.2. The plan must be appropriate to meet the needs of the student’s chosen field as determined by the advisory committee, and must be approved by the ECE Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate School.
6.1 Preparing Your Plan of Study

Suggested steps in preparing your plan of study are as follows:

a) Review the
   • Master's coursework requirements in this handbook; (Also see Subsection 6.3 if
     undergraduate, transfer, or excess course credit is to be included on the plan of
     study.)
   • Course information that is available online to determine which courses are of most
     interest to you and will enable you to meet your degree requirements;
   • ECE Course Advanced Planning List and the University Schedule of Classes to
     determine the semester(s) in which the chosen courses will be offered;
   • Graduate Areas and Faculty Interests supplement to learn the specific interest areas
     of faculty members and to determine suitable candidates for your Major Professor,
     the person who will chair your advisory committee.

b) Consult with at least three ECE faculty members, representing at least two of the eight
   ECE graduate areas, to develop a plan of study. Use these meetings to help you
   confirm or decide on choices such as the MS-Only or MS/PhD track, the thesis or non-
   thesis option, which courses to take, and who to select as a Major Professor.

c) Employ the online Electronic Plan of Study program (accessed through myPurdue) to
   compose a draft of your plan of study. Hardcopy instructions for using the online
   program are available from the ECE Graduate Office. Additional helpful information for
   filling out the plan of study can be found in Appendix C. Ensure that you have included
   courses that satisfy all requirements. You should print out a copy of your draft for use in
   discussions with members of your advisory committee.

d) Secure the agreement of an ECE faculty member to serve as your Major Professor.
   Confer with him/her to obtain advice on your course selections, the make-up of your
   advisory committee, and ultimately his/her informal approval of the plan of study.

e) Secure the agreement of two additional faculty members to serve on your graduate
   advisory committee and their informal approval of the plan of study. The choice of these
   two faculty members to serve on your Master’s advisory committee must be approved by
   your Major Professor. (See Section 5, “Master's Advisory Committee,” for additional
   details).

f) Returning to the online Plan of Study program, enter all changes that resulted from your
   discussions with members of your advisory committee. Submit your final plan
   electronically. Your plan of study will be automatically routed to the ECE Graduate
   Office for initial screening before being sent to your advisory committee, the ECE
   Graduate Coordinator, and the Graduate School for their approvals. If your plan fails to
   gain any of the required approvals, the reason for the rejection will be explained in an e-
   mail message. You can then make any required changes and submit the revised plan
   for approval.

You may check on the status of the approval process at any stage. You will be sent an
e-mail message when approval has been obtained from the Graduate School. The
required approvals usually take several weeks.
6.2 Changing Your Plan of Study

It is recognized that as a student’s program progresses there may arise conditions that make it desirable to change the plan of study. Indeed, such changes, when based upon sound academic reasons, are encouraged. However, some regulations have been found necessary in order to prevent this privilege from being abused. Specifically:

- A course may not be removed from the plan of study once a grade of “D” or lower has been received in a course.
- The deadline for submitting a request to the ECE Graduate Office to remove a course in which you are currently enrolled from your plan of study is the end of the ninth week of the semester, or the end of four and a half weeks in a summer session.
- Use the Electronic Plan of Study program to submit a request to change your plan of study. Since any change in the courses or advisory committee membership on your current plan of study will require the approval of your advisory committee and the ECE Graduate Coordinator, you should first discuss the desired changes with your advisory committee and provide a reason for each change.

If the ECE requirements for the Master’s degree program are modified, there is no need for students to revise their previously approved plans of study to conform to the new rules. All approved plans of study remain valid. Students have the option to change their plan of study to conform to the new rules, but are not required to do so.

6.3 Undergraduate, Transfer, and Excess Course Credits

Undergraduate Credits

As noted in Subsection 3.1, a maximum of 6 credit hours of advanced-level (30000- or 40000-level) undergraduate courses taken in the first calendar year of student’s program are allowed on the plan of study. Refer to Subsection 3.1 for other restrictions applying to such credit.

Transfer Credits

A maximum of six graduate-level credit hours earned at regional campuses of Purdue University or at an ABET-accredited university may be applied toward the Master’s degree and entered on the Master’s plan of study. However, regional campus courses or transfer courses may not be used to satisfy the core course requirement. All courses transferred must be graduate-level courses, must not have been used to meet the requirements for another degree, and must have been completed with a grade of “B” or better. Grades from transfer courses are not included in computing the grade point average.

Excess Course Credits

Up to twelve credit hours of graduate-level courses taken at the West Lafayette campus of Purdue before a student was admitted to the ECE Master’s program may be applied toward the Master’s degree and entered on the Master’s plan of study. Allowed courses include those taken:

a) as excess undergraduate-degree credit;
b) in non-degree status;
c) while seeking a degree in another Purdue department or school, if you subsequently request to transfer to ECE;
d) while seeking a degree in another Purdue department or school, if you subsequently request dual-degree status in ECE. For dual-degree students seeking a PhD in another Purdue department or school and a Master’s degree in ECE, the ECE Master’s degree
plan of study may not contain any courses offered by or dual-listed with the student’s other department or school.

**Special Approval Requirements**
Without exception, all undergraduate, transfer, and excess course credits used on the Master’s plan of study must be specially approved by your advisory committee and by the ECE Graduate Coordinator. The steps to follow in requesting approval to include such credits on the Master’s plan of study are:

a) Add the course to your plan of study.

b) Provide the Graduate office with a short written academic justification for including a 30000- or 40000-level course on the plan of study.

c) If a transfer course or a non-ECE course taken at Purdue, show a copy of the catalog description of the course to your advisory committee members and bring the catalog description to the ECE Graduate Office.

If you are transferring a course from another university, the ECE Graduate Office will also require an original transcript showing the grade earned and a statement from an official at the university where the course was taken certifying that the course was not used to fulfill requirements for any other degree.
7 REGISTRATION

7.1 First Semester Registration

After consulting with three or more faculty members, prepare a tentative list of classes for the first semester, then report to the ECE Graduate Office, Room MSEE 140. Make sure to check the official Schedule of Classes for the coming semester to verify that your selected courses are being offered and that their meeting times do not conflict. Also note that:

- There is compulsory registration of research credit hours for those on the MS/PhD track;
- If justifiable, 6 hours of undergraduate credit taken in the first calendar year are allowed on the plan of study;
- Graduation requirements include the satisfactory completion of one semester of ECE 69400, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Seminar, and demonstration of proficiency in written English. It is strongly recommended that you complete these during your first or second semester.

The ECE Graduate Office staff will review and approve your course registration. You will add courses through myPurdue. Variable credit courses will be entered by the Graduate Office staff. You will receive a fee statement from the Bursar through myPurdue. Payment of this fee statement completes the registration process. Your registration will be cancelled if payment is not made by the deadline determined by the Registrar’s office. This deadline is posted in several locations, including the bulletin board outside the ECE Graduate Office.

7.2 Subsequent Semester Registrations

We encourage you to select your courses and to register as early as possible, since school decisions to cancel low-enrollment courses may affect your course options. Advanced registration for the Fall semester and Summer session begins around March 15 and ends respectively on the second Monday of Fall classes and the Friday before summer session begins. Registration for the Spring semester begins around October 15 and ends on the second Monday of Spring classes. Look for the announcement of specific registration dates as the cited dates approach.

All current ECE graduate students must register and pay their tuition and fees during the registration period. Note that late registration incurs a substantial penalty fee. If this is your final semester, complete the Candidate Survey in order to be registered as a candidate. If you are not certain that you will finish your degree requirements, you are still advised to register as a candidate. If you are not on the candidates list, you will not graduate, even if you have completed all requirements. After you have registered, check myPurdue to verify that your registration is correct. Report any errors to the ECE Graduate Office.

Check with the ECE Graduate Office when registering for “Exam Only” or “Degree Only” to make certain that you qualify and have met all necessary requirements. Students pursuing the thesis option must have been registered for at least one credit hour of research in the previous semester. The deadline for “Exam Only” or “Degree Only” registration is one week before classes begin.
7.3 Academic Loads

To qualify for full-time student status in a Fall or Spring semester, you must satisfy one of the following criteria:

• Be registered for a minimum of 8 credit hours;
• Hold a research or teaching assistantship (1/4 time or greater) and be registered for at least 6 credit hours.

All international students must be full-time in order to maintain their visa status.

ECE Teaching Assistants may register for a maximum of 9 credit hours of non-thesis coursework.

As previously noted, the residency requirement for the Master’s degree is 30 academic credit hours. Students are encouraged to register for the maximum allowable number of credit hours of courses and/or research each session to satisfy this requirement. Your Major Professor will help you to determine the proper number of research credit hours.

7.4 Dropping and Adding Courses

To drop or add a course, use myPurdue. Changes in variable credit courses will require the Graduate Office to enter the changes. Subsequently, be sure to confirm that a dropped or added course has been officially recorded by checking myPurdue.

Courses dropped during the first two weeks of classes will not appear on your permanent record. Courses dropped during weeks 3 and 4 will be recorded as a “W” grade on your permanent record. Courses dropped during weeks 5 through 9 require the signature of both the instructor and the ECE Graduate Coordinator, the instructor must assign a grade of “W,” “WF,” or “WN.” The end of this period is the final deadline for withdrawing from a class. A “W” simply records the fact that the student withdrew after the second week of the semester. A “WF” records that the student was failing a graded course. “WF” grades are not included in computing the GPA. A “WN” records failing status in a course being taken Pass/No Pass. “W,” “WF,” and “WN” grades are recorded on your permanent record.

Courses added during weeks 2 through 4 require the approval and signature of the instructor and personnel in the ECE Graduate Office. Courses may be added during weeks 5 through 9, but only under extraordinary circumstances. Courses added after the 4th week require the approval and signature of the instructor and the ECE Graduate Coordinator, the head of the department where the course is offered for non-ECE courses.

8 MASTER’S THESIS AND FINAL EXAMINATION

For those pursuing the thesis option, a thesis must be prepared according to a preset format and processed (revised, signatures obtained, distributed) following specified procedures. Likewise, the student must present and defend his/her work in a Final Examination. Information relative to the preparation and processing of the thesis is contained in Appendix D. Appendix E outlines the steps involved in scheduling the Final examination.
9 CONTINUATION FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

In order to continue graduate work toward the PhD degree after completion of the Master’s degree, a student must be admitted to the PhD program. Admission is based on evaluation of the student’s potential for success at the PhD level. The GPA of a typical successful applicant is 3.6 or higher. At a minimum, the student must have a GPA of 3.3 and a positive recommendation from his/her advisory committee. Application forms for admission to the PhD program are available in the ECE Graduate Office, and should be filed at the beginning of the final semester of the student’s Master’s program.

10 PETITIONS TO THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE

All graduate students have the right to petition for exceptions to any existing rules if they feel that the circumstances are sufficiently unusual to warrant special consideration. The first step is to request an appointment with the ECE Associate Head for Education to see if a resolution can be found at that level. If not, the student may file a petition with the ECE Graduate Committee. The petition is to be delivered in writing to the Chair of the Graduate Committee and is to contain the approval (or disapproval) of each member of the student’s advisory committee.
Appendix A: MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT

The following lists of courses have been approved for meeting the mathematics requirement.

Mathematics Courses
Courses numbered MA 51100 and above are acceptable with the exceptions listed below:
1. MA 51900 (Stat 51900) is not acceptable.
2. Only the AC and CS areas accept MA 50400.
3. Only the BE and ES areas accept MA 51000.
4. The CS area does not allow MA 52700.
5. Only the CE area accepts STAT 51400.
6. Math Teacher related courses are not acceptable.

Computer Science Courses
CS 51400   Numerical Analysis
CS 51500   Numerical Analysis of Linear Systems
CS 52000   Computational Methods in Analysis
CS 61400   Numerical Solution of Ordinary Differential Equations
CS 61500   Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations

Statistics Courses
Stat 52800   Introduction to Mathematical Statistics
Stat 52900   Applied Decision Theory and Bayesian Statistics
Stat 53200 (MA 53200)   Elements of Stochastic Processes
Stat 53800 (MA 53800)   Probability Theory I
Stat 53900 (MA 53900)   Probability Theory II
Stat 55300   Theory of Linear Models and Experimental Designs
Stat 55400   Multivariate Test Statistics
Stat 55500   Non-Parametric Statistics
Stat 57600   Introduction to Statistical Decision Theory
Stat 63800 (MA 63800)   Stochastic Processes I
Stat 63900 (MA 63900)   Stochastic Processes II
Stat 65700   Theory of Tests, Estimation and Decisions I
Stat 65800   Theory of Tests, Estimation and Decisions II
Stat 66700   Measure-Theoretic Statistics: Decision Theoretic and Classical
Stat 66800   Asymptotic Distribution Theory

Physics Courses
Phys 60000   Methods of Theoretical Physics I
Phys 60100   Methods of Theoretical Physics II

Please Note: Faculty-initiated requests for changes or exceptions to the above will be considered by the Graduate Committee after approval by the appropriate area. Student-initiated requests must follow the same procedure, with the additional first step of approval by the student’s Major Professor.
Appendix B: ENGLISH REQUIREMENT

Any one of the following methods may be used to fulfill the English requirement:

- Score a four or higher on the GRE Writing Assessment.
- Score 22 or higher on the Writing section of the Internet Based TOEFL.
- Score 6 or higher on the Writing section of the IELTS.
- Pass English 62100 offered at Purdue University with a grade of Satisfactory ("S").
- Successfully completed a one-semester-long composition course equivalent to English 62100 or English 10600 or 10800 from an English-medium university with a grade of B or better. The ECE Graduate Coordinator may require you to provide a course description or additional information about the course.
Appendix C: FILLING OUT THE MASTER’S PLAN OF STUDY

The information provided below may be helpful when filling out your plan of study in myPurdue.

a) The space for indicating the Research Area may be filled in with a word or words descriptive of the thesis topic, e.g. Design of Robot Controllers. This is optional, and you may choose to leave it blank.

b) The space for indicating the “Area of Specialization” is reserved for programs such as Computational Science and Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, or Biomedical Engineering. If you have not applied and been admitted to one of these program, please leave this field blank.

c) Indicate each of the courses on your plan of study as Primary Area or Related Area courses. The Primary Area must be one of the eight areas of the ECE graduate program listed in Table 1 found in Section 1.

d) All Master’s degrees require a specified number of hours of acceptable mathematics courses (6 for non-thesis option; 3 for thesis option). Indicate these as Related Area Courses on your plan of study. For a list of approved courses, refer to Appendix A.

e) Mini-courses such as ECE 64000 and ECE 65000 must be listed as three separate courses with three separate titles.

f) Be sure that course titles on the Plan of Study match those on your transcripts, especially on experimental courses (ECE 59500 and ECE 69500), Advanced ECE Projects (ECE 69600), and Directed Reading in ECE (ECE 69700).

g) Courses transferred from other schools should be listed on the plan of study with the same title and number as on the transcript from the school at which they were taken. Do not use the equivalent number from a Purdue course.

h) Courses that are offered by more than one department must appear with the number and title under which they were taken.

i) You will use a drop-down box to indicate, for each course, the registration type--regular, transfer, non-degree registration, or undergraduate excess. Undergraduate courses taken during the first year of a student’s Master’s program and courses taken while enrolled in another graduate program at Purdue before entering the ECE Graduate Program are considered “regular” registration. Transfer, non-degree, and excess undergraduate-degree courses should obviously be identified using the corresponding registration type. (These latter types of courses are described under Excess Course Credits in Subsection 6.3.)

j) Do not mark that a “B” or better is required for any course on your plan of study. This is not a requirement for you for any course.

k) Pass/No pass grades are not permitted for courses on the plan of study.

l) Thesis research, ECE 69800, and the ECE seminar, ECE 69400, should not be included on the plan of study.

m) Courses used to fulfill the departmental English requirement should not be included on the plan of study.

n) The plan of study program will query you for the area of each of the members of your Advisory Committee ("Advisor in Area Of"). Even though the program tells you this is optional, ECE requires that you fill this in and abbreviate (e.g. AC, CE, etc.). You will find a listing of the ECE faculty, including the primary research area or areas for each, on the ECE Graduate Program web page, http://www.purdue.edu/ECE/Graduates.
Appendix D: THESIS PREPARATION AND PROCESSING

For those pursuing the thesis option, a thesis must be prepared according to a preset format and processed (revised, signatures obtained, distributed) following specified procedures. Likewise, the student must present and defend his/her work in a Final Examination. Information is presented here relative to the preparation and processing of the thesis and the steps involved in scheduling the Final examination.

THESIS PREPARATION AND PROCESSING


The Purdue Graduate School is working to make a standardized web environment for creating your thesis/dissertation. They have chosen the Overleaf web service and worked with them to provide a Purdue compliant template/environment. You are highly encouraged to look at and consider using Overleaf for your thesis/dissertation.

Please use the new template for either LaTeX or Word:

LaTeX  
[https://www.overleaf.com/edu/purdue](https://www.overleaf.com/edu/purdue)

Word (requires Word 2013)  
and the document linked at "IEEE for Engineering disciplines"

When you have completed the thesis preparation, receive your Major Professor’s approval to proceed and schedule the Final Examination as outlined in Appendix E. Copies of the thesis are to be distributed to the Advisory Committee members at least two weeks in advance of the examination.

Having completed the thesis preparation, receive your Major Professor’s approval to proceed and schedule the Final Examination. Copies of the thesis are to be distributed to the Advisory Committee members at least two weeks in advance of the examination.
Appendix E: MASTER’S FINAL EXAMINATION INFORMATION

The Final Examination is given after the thesis and all other requirements have been completed. The Final Exam covers primarily the thesis and related topics. The Final Examination Committee is typically the student’s Advisory Committee. However, the Dean of the Graduate School reserves the right to appoint additional Committee members.

Schedule your Final Examination with your Major Professor, your Advisory Committee, and the ECE Graduate Office at least **3 weeks prior to the proposed date of the exam.** The Final Examination must be completed before the semester deadline (approximately one week before the last day of classes) as indicated by the Graduate School, but we strongly recommend you do not wait until this late date. Check the Graduate School website or in the ECE Graduate Office for the specific deadline. Those who are registered for “Exam Only” must complete their Final Examination by the eighth week of classes (fourth week of a summer session).

To reserve a room for your Final Examination:

- Go to [https://engineering.purdue.edu/ECN/Resources/Tools/RAT/Entities/ECE](https://engineering.purdue.edu/ECN/Resources/Tools/RAT/Entities/ECE)
- Select the room you wish to schedule and check the availability of that room;
- After confirming the availability of the room, select "Request Reservation;"
- Click on Lacey Siefers under the list of managers--you will then be able to submit the request online;
- Should the system not allow you to make a request, send the request by email to lsiefers@purdue.edu
- On the day of the exam, if the room is locked, see an area secretary for a key. If the area secretary is not available, see the ECE Graduate Office.

A request to schedule the Final Examination is in two steps:

- An **electronic request** should be submitted through myPurdue, under the academic tab and the Plan of Study Generator, **three weeks** prior to the exam date. **Form 8** is the request to schedule the exam. This request requires approvals from the Graduate Office and the chair of your advisory committee.
- The second step is to send an abstract (no more than 250 words) of the thesis research clearly defining the problem and its significance, to the ECE Graduate Office (goldenm@purdue.edu).

Follow the steps in the **Final Exam Check Sheet** to complete the process from requesting the exam to depositing the thesis.

Please be aware that late requests to schedule your Final Examination do not allow sufficient time to process your request and adequately publicize your examination date. Any requests to schedule a Final Examination less than **three weeks** in advance must be approved by the ECE Graduate Coordinator, and will be approved only in exceptional circumstances.

Your examination is to be held on the West Lafayette Purdue Campus. You and all members of your Advisory Committee are expected to be physically present. The time
and location of the Final Examination will be posted on the ECE Graduate website and on the ECE Graduate Office bulletin board in the EE Building. University regulations permit visitors to attend the Final Examination. Such visitors are permitted to ask questions of the candidate, after having been recognized by the Major Professor, but they may not be present while the Final Examination Committee deliberates on its decision.

The Examining Committee will report the results of the Final Examination through the Graduate School Web Database. No more than one dissenting vote is acceptable in certifying the candidate to receive the MSECE degree. If the examination is unsatisfactory, at least one semester or summer session must elapse before the Final Examination is repeated.


The Purdue Graduate School is working to make a standardized web environment for creating your thesis/dissertation. They have chosen the Overleaf web service and worked with them to provide a Purdue compliant template/environment. You are highly encouraged to look at and consider using Overleaf for your thesis/dissertation.

Please use the new template for either LaTex or Word:

LaTex
https://www.overleaf.com/edu/purdue

Word (requires Word 2013)
http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/templates.html
and the document linked at "IEEE for Engineering disciplines"

When you have completed the thesis preparation, receive your Major Professor's approval to proceed and schedule the Final Examination as outlined in Appendix E. Copies of the thesis are to be distributed to the Advisory Committee members at least two weeks in advance of the examination.

On the day of the Final Examination, your Major Professor and committee members will submit the “Report of the Final Examination” through the Graduate School Web Database. This should be completed as soon as possible following the exam.

You will make an electronic request to begin the thesis deposit through myPurdue, under the academic tab and the Plan of Study Generator. Form 9 is the Thesis Acceptance Form. Once you have completed the electronic form and submitted it, the Chair and committee members will be asked to approve the thesis. Be sure to discuss with your Major Professor whether your thesis should be confidential prior to submitting the request or if there will be a delay in the publication.
Your Major Professor will certify that he/she has used “iThenticate” software to check the document for plagiarism in the electronic Thesis Acceptance Form. They will also confirm confidentiality or delayed publication of the thesis if you have marked these.

www.ithenticate.com

After all of your committee members have signed off on the Thesis Acceptance Form (Form 9), schedule an appointment with the School Head via his/her administrative assistant in the Main Office (EE Room 122) for an Exit Interview. This interview is expected prior to the Head submitting the final electronic signature on your Thesis Acceptance Form. When you meet with the Head, please bring a copy of your abstract.

Schedule your Thesis Deposit Appointment through the scheduling link:
https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/appointment.html

Having obtained all required signatures and submitted the electronic version to ProQuest:
• Meet with the Graduate School Thesis Deposit Office
• Give one copy to your Major Professor.
• Give a copy to any member of your examining committee who wants one.