Requirements for Graduate Computer Engineering Degrees
in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

1. Total number of hours (64 or 96)
   For students who already hold a Master’s Degree, 64 total hours are required.
   For “direct PhD” students, 96 hours are required.
   A minimum of 18 (or 42) classroom hours (excludes 681,684,685, and 691).
   18 hours required for students with a previous Master’s Degree and 42 for direct
   PhD students.
   Classroom hours must be taken from courses within the College of Engineering
   and College of Science.

2. Max undergraduate hours (8 hours / 2 courses 400 only)

3. Three hours of seminar (ECEN/CSCE 681) are required.
   At most 3 hours of ECEN 684
   No more than 2 credit hours of Directed Studies (685) are allowed.
   Students working on a research project should enroll in Research (691) hours.

4. A maximum of 6 transfer hours allowed from another institution.
   Transfer hours must be from a “peer institution”.
   Transfer hours are subject to the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee

5. Composition of committee (at least 4)
   At least 2 within Computer Engineering Group from ECEN
   At least 1 not in the student’s department
   At least 1 not in CE Group, but in ECEN department

6. All PHD students are required to pass the Departmental Qualifying Examination
   • Incoming PHD students are required to take the exam within one year of
     starting the program.
   • Students entering the program with a previous degree outside of Electrical or
     Computer Engineering are allowed, with the approval of their advisor, an
     extra year and will be required to take the exam by the end of the second year.
   • Those students that fail the examination are given a second opportunity to
     retake the exam which must be taken at the next opportunity in which the
     exam is offered.
   • Those that fail the examination twice will be removed from the PHD program.

7. All PHD students are required to pass a preliminary examination.
   • PHD students are required to schedule their prelim exam by the end of their
     4th semester (excluding summers) or 6th semester for direct PHDs. Students
     who have not scheduled their prelim by the appointed time will be blocked
     from further registration until they do so.
   • OGS must be officially notified of the exam schedule at least 2 weeks prior to
     the exam. This should be done through the Graduate Office.
• Student must download the checklist and signature page from the OGS website. The checklist must be signed by your advisor and Graduate Coordinator prior to the exam.
• The prelim exam consists of a written and an oral examination.
• For students who have passed the departmental Qualifying Exam, the written portion of the prelim exam can be waived subject to the approval of the student’s supervisory committee.
• Students who fail the prelim exam will have one opportunity to retake the exam within 6 months of the original exam date.

8. Final defense of dissertation is required for all PHD students.
• A dissertation proposal must be approved by the supervisory committee and submitted to the Graduate Office prior to the defense. Typically this proposal is submitted in conjunction with the preliminary exam, submitted one (1) week afterwards.
• Date and location of the final defense must be scheduled through the Graduate Office so that official notification can be provided to OGS.
• Dissertation must be submitted to committee members at least two weeks before defense.

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9. Additional course requirement

• STAT 651 and STAT 652 (statistics courses) are for non-science majors and are not allowed. Traditionally no courses will be admitted from Engineering Technology because of the non-calculus based curriculum and no approved graduate program.

• Credit for CSCE 614 may not be allowed in addition to ECEN 651. Please check with your advisor.

• Credit for CSCE 619 and CSCE 612 may not be allowed in addition to ECEN 602. Please check with your advisor.

• No credit will be given for CSCE 601 & 602.

• No credit will be given for the following foundation courses ECEN 214, ECEN 248, ECEN 314, ECEN 325, ECEN 350, CSCE 321, CSCE 211 and CSCE 311.