

# Electrical and Computer Engineering

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Graduate study is offered in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering leading to the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Both the M.S. and Ph.D. are available via BCoE Learning (online). Major areas of study include, but are not limited to the following:

- Communications
- Controls
- Computer Architecture and Digital Computing
- Electromagnetics
- Power and High Voltage
- Microelectronics and VLSI
- Signal, Image, and Speech Processing

Research facilities include the following:

- High Performance Computing Collaboratory (HPCC)
- Geosystems Research Institute (GRI)
- Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS)
- MSU High Voltage Laboratory
- Emerging Materials Research Laboratory
- Microsystems Prototyping Laboratory

Note: Effective Fall 2012 semester, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering no longer offers separate electrical engineering (EE) or computer engineering (CPE) degrees at the graduate level.

## Admission Criteria

In addition to meeting the requirements set forth by the Graduate School in the admission section of this publication, the basic requirements of the department for admission to the graduate program include the following:

- 3.00/4.00 GPA on a B.S. degree for admission to the M.S. degree program
- 3.50/4.00 GPA on a B.S. or M.S. degree for admission to the Ph.D. degree program
- 550 PBT TOEFL score (79 iBT) or 6.5 IELTS score for the student whose native language is not English (unless he/ she earned a degree from a U.S. institution)
- Satisfactory performance on the GRE for students with a degree from a program that is not EAC/ABET accredited

In addition to the requirements set forth by the Department for admission to the graduate program, highly qualified undergraduate students may be directly admitted to the Ph.D. program. Such direct admission requires a minimum undergraduate equivalent GPA of 3.50/4.00 on the last 60 credit hours of undergraduate courses, or a first class with distinction degree classification for students whose degrees are from institutions where no GPA is reported, and a satisfactory performance on the GRE for students with a degree from a program that is not EAC/ABET-accredited.

ECE M.S. students who wish to transfer to the Ph.D. program prior to completing the requirements for the Master of Science degree must submit a new application provided that they have a minimum graduate GPA of 3.80 on the first 15 credit hours of graduate courses taken at MSU.

## Provisional Admission

Provisional admission is not typically available to applicants to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

## Conditional Admission

Students who are fully funded by some external source (typically a scholarship program sponsored by the government of the student's home country) and who meet all other admission requirements, but lack only the TOEFL/IELTS score required for admission, may apply to be admitted conditionally, provided that the student's funding source will cover one year of English as a Second Language (ESL) study. After one year of ESL study, the student can apply for regular admission into the graduate program in Electrical and Computer Engineering providing that a TOEFL/IELTS score meeting admission requirements (79 TOEFL, 6.5 IELTS) has been obtained. Conditional admission is available only for the fall semester. During the time of ESL study, a conditionally admitted student may only take ESL courses; a conditionally admitted student may not take courses other than ESL courses, or engage in research activities, during the time of ESL study. To be considered for conditional admission, the student must include in their statement of purpose submitted with their application for admission a statement that they wish to be considered for conditional admission. Documentation of the source of funding indicating that the funding will cover a year of ESL study must also be submitted with the application materials.

## Accelerated Program

Highly qualified MSU undergraduates in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering are encouraged to consider applying to the Accelerated Program. This program permits students to earn up to 9 hours of graduate-level coursework during their final year of undergraduate studies. Students in the Accelerated Program take graduate-level courses and earn both undergraduate credit and graduate credit simultaneously. Students need to consult with a potential graduate advisor to ensure graduate credit could be applied to a program of study for the graduate degree. Application to this program is made in the junior year (i.e., after completion of 60 or more hours of graded undergraduate courses). Students interested in applying should see Accelerated Programs (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2022-23/graduate/colleges-degree-programs/>) for complete information and contact the department's graduate coordinator, Dr. James E. Fowler, for more details.

## Academic Performance

To be in good academic standing, a student is expected to maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 after admission to the program. If a graduate student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.00, the student will be placed on probation. While on probation, a student will not receive any type of financial support (TA, RA, fellowships, wages, etc.) and is required to raise his/her cumulative GPA to 3.00 by the end of the following semester of enrollment. While on probation, the student must enroll in 9 credit hours of coursework; Directed Individual Study courses are excluded.

A student will be dismissed from the graduate program if:

- in any semester subsequent to being on probation, the student's cumulative GPA falls again below a 3.00;
- a student makes grades of D, F, or more than two Cs;
- a student makes a grade of U in two consecutive semesters;
- a student fails twice the oral examination (M.S. level) or the preliminary examination (Ph.D. level);
- a student does not pass the Ph.D. qualifying exam in four attempts, within the first four semesters;
- a student receives an unsatisfactory evaluation of a thesis or dissertation;
- a student fails to take a remedial course in the required semester.

In case of a dismissal from the graduate program, a student may appeal his/her academic dismissal according to the following procedure:

- Within four weeks of being notified of the official dismissal, the student must present the request and related explanation in writing to the department head and/or graduate coordinator. The department head/coordinator will review the appeal with the departmental graduate committee and render a recommendation.
- If the appeal at the departmental level is unsuccessful, a student may then appeal to the college dean.
- If the appeal at the college level is unsuccessful, the student may then appeal to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

## Prerequisite and Core Courses

It is required that all graduate students take the following courses for credit as required remedial undergraduate coursework unless the transcript shows equivalent credit. Additional courses may be required.

ECE 3413	Introduction to Electronic Circuits	3
ECE 3424	Intermediate Electronic Circuits	4
ECE 3443	Signals and Systems	3
ECE 3714	Digital Devices and Logic Design	4
ECE 3724 or ECE 4743	Microprocessors Digital System Design	3-4

## Program of Study

It is the responsibility of each graduate student to develop a suitable program of graduate study in conjunction with the student's major advisor and graduate advisory committee. Minimum requirements for the M.S. is 30 credit hours past the B.S. Minimum requirements for the Ph.D. is 48 credit hours past the M.S. or 66 credit hours past the B.S. for direct-admit Ph.D. students.

### Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering - Thesis

Graduate coursework with a minimum of 12 credit hours at the 8000 level	24
ECE 8000 Thesis Research/ Thesis in Electrical and Computer Engineering	6
Total Hours <sup>1</sup>	30

<sup>1</sup> Students can also take up to 6 hours in ECE 7000, and a minor area outside the department is optional (9 credit hours with a minimum of 3 credit hours at the 8000 level).

Students are required to orally defend their thesis. The thesis document (finished, not a draft) must be read and approved by the major professor and presented to the remaining committee members one week before the scheduled oral defense.

### Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering - Non-Thesis

Graduate coursework at the 8000 level	15
Other graduate-level coursework	15
Total Hours <sup>1</sup>	30

<sup>1</sup> Students can also take up to 6 hours in ECE 7000, and a minor area outside the department is optional (9 credit hours with a minimum of 3 credit hours at the 8000 level.)

Students in the non-thesis program must pass an oral examination. The oral examination consists of a comprehensive exam related to all the graduate level courses taken toward the degree.

### Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering

ECE 8XXX Graduate-level coursework	12
ECE XXXX Additional graduate-level coursework <sup>1</sup>	12
ECE 9000 Dissertation Research /Dissertation in Electrical and Computer Engineering	24
Total Hours <sup>1</sup>	48

<sup>1</sup> Students can also take up to 6 hours in ECE 7000, and a minor area outside the department is optional (12 credit hours at the Ph.D. level with a minimum of 3 credit hours at the 8000 level).

A doctoral student is required to orally defend his or her dissertation. The dissertation document (finished, not a draft) must be read and approved by the major professor and presented to the remaining committee readers two weeks before the scheduled oral defense.

### Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering - Direct-Admit

ECE 8XXX Graduate-level coursework	21
ECE XXXX Graduate-level coursework	21
ECE 9000 Dissertation Research /Dissertation in Electrical and Computer Engineering	24
Total Hours <sup>1</sup>	66

<sup>1</sup> Students can also take up to 6 hours in ECE 7000, and a minor area outside the department is optional (12 credit hours at the Ph.D. level with a minimum of 3 credit hours at the 8000 level).

A doctoral student is required to orally defend his or her dissertation. The dissertation document (finished, not a draft) must be read and approved by the major professor and presented to the remaining committee readers two weeks before the scheduled oral defense.

## **Completion Requirements**

### **Examinations**

The ECE coursework-based Ph.D. qualifier requires doctoral students to earn a 3.50 GPA on the first 18 credit hours of ECE graduate coursework (at least 50% of the credit hours must be at the 8000-level). DIS courses are not considered for the Ph.D. qualifier. Full-time students are required to pass the qualifier by the end of the second year of enrollment in the doctoral program. Students who do not achieve this can submit a plan of action to the graduate coordinator for achieving the required GPA. If approved, the student can enroll in up to an additional 6 credit hours of ECE graduate courses to improve ECE course GPA to 3.50. Full-time students are required to improve their GPA by the conclusion of the following semester.

Additionally, doctoral students are required to pass the oral preliminary examination (dissertation-proposal defense). The oral preliminary examination may be taken only after the student has passed the qualifying examination; in addition, the student must have completed or be within 6 hours of completing the coursework. The oral preliminary exam consists of a presentation of current research activities toward the student's dissertation.