

**MEMORANDUM TO GRADUATE STUDENTS  
IN  
ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

Subject: School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Policies  
With Regard to Graduate Studies

This memorandum supplements the information and instructions given in the most recent edition of the OSU University Catalog. It is the responsibility of every graduate student to be familiar with the general requirements associated his/her degree program as listed in the Catalog. Specific requirements and options relevant to graduate studies in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) are described herein.

Essential information for all graduate students in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering is as follows:

New Students:

Prior to or shortly after enrolling in the Graduate College, students who are pursuing a graduate degree in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering should contact the Graduate Coordinator in the departmental office (Room 202, Engineering South) for initial advisement. The Graduate Coordinator will assist all incoming graduate students with the selection of first semester courses.

By the middle of the first semester, every graduate student should have contacted and identified an academic advisor to oversee their graduate work.

All Students:

Students are directed to the Graduate College for information regarding the sequence of requirements and milestones. Specifically, note that

- **The application for degree (diploma application) must be submitted to the Graduate College at the BEGINNING of the term in which the degree is to be conferred.**
- **A student MUST be enrolled in a minimum of two (2) credit hours during the semester in which degree requirements are completed.**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (PROFESSIONAL OPTION):**

The Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE), Professional Option, is a professional degree offered under the OSU Graduate College Professional Path (Plan III), which includes a Creative Component requirement. It is intended for students who wish to enhance their analytical skills and qualifications for an enhanced engineering career in the workforce. The degree requires 33 graduate credit hours, including an ECE-specific course qualified to assess a Creative Component project.

Students in the MSEE, Professional Option, **are required** to take courses in at least four areas of ECEN at the 5000 level (designated by second digit of the course number) or above. The degree program requirements are summarized in the following table:

<b>MSEE, Professional Option (33 hrs.)</b>	
<b>TECHNICAL ELECTIVE</b> (Outside Dept., <b>4000</b> level or above)	3 hours
<b>ECEN GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES</b>	21 hours
<b>ADDITIONAL COURSES</b> (Must be Graduate approved courses. May include non-ECEN graduate level courses <u><i>with approval</i></u> of the student's graduate advisory committee)	6 hours
<b>CREATIVE COMPONENT COURSE</b>	3 hours

**Note:** A 3-hour ECEN 5000+ course (with a term project) is designated as the *creative component*. ENGL4893 RESEARCH WRITING FOR INTL GRAD (3 credit hours) cannot be used toward the degree.

Additional MSEE, Professional Option, Degree Requirements:

- A. Students **MUST** take any remedial courses at the first enrollment opportunity after entrance into the MSEE program.
- B. Up to two (2) 4000 level ECEN courses that have been **approved for graduate credit** within the ECEN program may be included on the MSEE Plan of Study. The list of approved courses is included at the end of this memorandum.
- C. No course required for the BSEE degree at OSU may appear on the MSEE Plan of Study.
- D. No course that was applied to BSEE degree may be included on the MSEE Plan of Study.
- E. The minimum requirement of 21 hours of graduate-level courses in ECEN **MAY NOT** include the following courses: ECEN 5000, 5030 and 6050.
- F. Graduate College regulations **REQUIRE** a minimum of 21 hours of 5000-level courses on all MSEE Plans of Study.

- G. Students who do not have a BSEE degree **MAY** include **only one** “outside” ECEN course on their MSEE Plan of Study. **All** students **MUST** have at least one “outside” ECEN course.
- H. For the technical elective (3 hours), courses that are cross-listed with ECEN must be approved by the student’s advisor.

Entrance Requirements:

- A. 3.0 GPA in an accredited BSEE program is the standard for admission to the MSEE, Professional Option, program. However, applicants with lower GPA **may be granted** probationary admission. Students who have BS degrees in other engineering fields **may be admitted** to the MSEE, Professional Option, program, **subject to** the same GPA requirements. These candidates will be expected to take enough prerequisite courses (from undergraduate ECEN courses, and perhaps some courses in Mathematics, Computer Science and/or Physics) to accomplish two ends: (a) to assure a reasonable basis for success in the graduate courses associated with the MSEE, Professional Option, degree; and, (b) to assure that when the candidate enters the workforce with the MSEE, Professional Option, degree, there will be no potential deficiencies in the candidate’s technical background. This may well require some prerequisite courses in areas of study in which the student has little interest and in which he/she has no intention of practicing after graduation. Students are sometimes admitted to an MSEE, Professional Option, program with a grade of “C” in one or two junior- or senior-level courses. Students **may be required**, as a condition of admission to the MSEE, Professional Option, program to repeat such courses, or take another undergraduate-level course in the same or closely related area of study. A grade of “B” **MUST** be attained for such prescribed prerequisite courses.
- B. Students admitted unconditionally to the program are assumed competent to take the required MSEE, Professional Option, courses. If the student feels unprepared for one of the required classes, he/she may enroll in the appropriate prerequisite courses.
- C. Students admitted conditionally should enroll in the necessary undergraduate prerequisite courses as a first priority. Graduate courses may be taken concurrently with prerequisite courses in other areas. Students need not necessarily complete all prerequisite courses before taking the first 5000-level courses.
- D. Note: The aforementioned prerequisite courses do not count towards the degree requirements of the MSEE, Professional Option, degree. That is, these prerequisite courses are not listed in the Plan of Study.
- E. The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering **waives** the foreign-language requirement for Master of Science, Professional Option, degree.

Graduate record examination:

Scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general exam must be submitted with the application. Applicants scoring 153 and higher on the verbal section and 155 and higher on the quantitative section of the GRE have proven to be competitive within the ECE graduate program.

### Retention standards:

The Graduate College bulletin sets forth certain minimum grade standards for retention: **The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering expects all candidates to attain grades of “B” or better in all courses taken as graduate students, whether prerequisite courses or courses listed as part of the Plan of Study. A grade below “B” in a prerequisite course is cause for suspension. A grade below “C”, or more than two (2) “C’s” in graduate courses will result in suspension. A GPA of 3.0 or above in graduate courses must be maintained.**

A preliminary **Plan of Study** for the MSEE, Professional Option, degree should be worked out by the student and with his/her advisor. This plan should include a listing of course work and an estimate of the time schedule. **The initiative for proposing a Plan of Study lies with the student.** The Graduate College requires that a MSEE Plan of Study be filed **BEFORE** the student registers for his/her 17<sup>th</sup> hour of graduate credit. The approval of the student’s advisor and two other faculty members as well as that of the Dean of the Graduate College is required for all MSEE Plans of Study. All Master of Science, Professional Option, degree students must satisfy the creative component requirement of the Graduate College. A creative component proposal **MUST ALSO BE** approved and filed.

Plans of Study may be revised from time to time; the revision is accomplished by submitting a new plan as outlined above. **The Graduate College REQUIRES that the final plan be filed before registration for the semester in which the necessary work for the degree will be completed.**

### Milestones:

**Plan of Study:** The Graduate College requires that a MSEE Plan of Study be filed **BEFORE** the student registers for his/her 17<sup>th</sup> hour of graduate credit. The procedure for submitting the Plan of Study is outlined at <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/planofstudy>.

**Creative Component Proposal:** A proposal for the Creative Component project to satisfy the OSU Path III (Professional Path) MSEE Creative Component degree requirement must be approved by the advisory committee prior to the completion of 17 credit hours of courses.

**Creative Component Submission:** Documentation of the work satisfying the Creative Component requirement of the Path III (Professional Path) MSEE degree must be approved by the advisory committee upon completion of the degree requirements. Appropriate documentation may include, but is not limited to, a course term project report, listings of software developed, or design schematics and/or a user’s manual for a designed system.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (THESIS OPTION):

The Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE), Thesis Option, degree is an academic, research-based degree offered under the OSU Graduate College Traditional Path (Plan I) including a thesis. It is intended for students who wish to make fundamental contributions to the understanding and practice of engineering science and techniques. It is also intended to prepare students for the Ph.D. program. The degree requires 30 hours of graduate-level credit, including 6 hours of Thesis credit.

Students in the MSEE, Thesis Option, degree program **are required** to take courses in at least two areas of ECEN at the 5000 level (designated by the second digit of course number) or above. A summary of the degree requirements is given in the following table:

<b>MSEE, Thesis Option (30 hrs.)</b>	
<b>TECHNICAL ELECTIVE</b> (Outside Dept., <b>4000</b> level or above)	3 hours
<b>ECEN GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES</b>	18 hours
<b>THESIS</b>	6 hours
<b>ECEN 5070 or ECEN Grad. Level Course</b>	3 hours

**Note:** ENGL4893 RESEARCH WRITING FOR INTL GRAD (3 credit hours) cannot be used toward the degree.

### Additional MSEE, Thesis Option, Degree Requirements:

- A.** Students **MUST** take any remedial courses at the first enrollment opportunity after entrance into the MSEE program.
- B.** Up to two (2) 4000 level ECEN courses that have been **approved for graduate credit** within the ECEN program may be included on the MSEE Plan of Study. The list of approved courses is included at the end of this memorandum.
- C.** No course required for the BSEE degree at OSU may appear on the MSEE Plan of Study.
- D.** No course that was applied to BSEE degree may be included on the MSEE Plan of Study.
- E.** The minimum requirement of 18 hours of graduate-level courses in ECEN **MAY NOT** include the following courses: ECEN 5000, 5030 and 6050.
- F.** Graduate College regulations **REQUIRE** a minimum of 21 hours of 5000-level courses on all MSEE Plans of Study.
- G.** Students who do not have a BSEE degree **CAN** include **only one** “outside” ECEN course on their MSEE Plan of Study. **All** students **MUST** have at least one “outside” ECEN course.

- H. For the technical elective (3 hours), courses that are cross-listed with ECEN must be approved by the student's advisor.

#### Entrance Requirements:

- A. 3.0 GPA in an accredited BSEE program is the standard for admission to the MSEE, Thesis Option, program. However, applicants with lower GPA **may be granted** probationary admission. Students who have BS degrees in other engineering fields **may be admitted** to the MSEE, Thesis Option, program, **subject to** the same GPA requirements. These candidates will be expected to take enough prerequisite courses (from undergraduate ECEN courses, and perhaps some courses in Mathematics, Computer Science and/or Physics) to accomplish two ends: (a) to assure a reasonable basis for success in the graduate courses associated with the MSEE, Thesis Option, degree; and, (b) to assure that when the candidate enters the workforce with the MSEE, Thesis Option, degree, there will be no potential deficiencies in the candidate's technical background. This may well require some prerequisite courses in areas of study in which the student has little interest and in which he/she has no intention of practicing after graduation. Students are sometimes admitted to an MSEE, Thesis Option, program with a grade of "C" in one or two junior- or senior-level courses. Students **may be required**, as a condition of admission to the MSEE, Thesis Option, program to repeat such courses, or take another undergraduate-level course in the same or closely related area of study. A grade of "B" or better **MUST** be attained for such prescribed prerequisite courses.
- B. Students admitted unconditionally to the program are assumed competent to take the required MSEE, Thesis Option, courses. If the student feels unprepared for one of the required classes, he/she may enroll in the appropriate prerequisite courses.
- C. Students admitted conditionally should enroll in the necessary undergraduate prerequisite courses as a first priority. Graduate courses may be taken concurrently with prerequisite courses in other areas. Students need not necessarily complete all prerequisite courses before taking the first 5000-level courses.
- D. Note: The aforementioned prerequisite courses do not count towards the degree requirements of the MSEE, Thesis Option, degree. That is, these prerequisite courses are not listed in the Plan of Study.
- E. The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering **waives** the foreign-language requirement for Master of Science, Thesis Option, degree.

#### Graduate Record Examination:

Scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general exam must be submitted with the application. Applicants scoring 153 and higher on the verbal section and 155 and higher on the quantitative section of the GRE have proven to be competitive within the ECE graduate program.

#### Retention Standards:

The Graduate College bulletin sets forth certain minimum grade standards for retention: **The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering expects all candidates to attain grades of “B” or better in all courses taken as graduate students, whether prerequisite courses or courses listed as part of the Plan of Study. A grade below “B” in a prerequisite course is cause for suspension. A grade below “C”, or more than two (2) “C’s” in graduate courses will result in suspension. A GPA of 3.0 or above in graduate courses must be maintained.**

A preliminary **Plan of Study** for the MSEE, Thesis Option, degree should be worked out by the student and with his/her advisor. This plan should include a listing of course work and an estimate of the time schedule.. **The initiative for proposing a Plan of Study lies with the student.** The Graduate College requires that a MSEE Plan of Study be filed **BEFORE** the student registers for his/her 17<sup>th</sup> hour of graduate credit. The approval of the student’s advisor and two other faculty members as well as that of the Dean of the Graduate College is required for all MSEE Plans of Study.

Plans of Study may be revised from time to time; the revision is accomplished by submitting a new plan as outlined above. **The Graduate College REQUIRES that the final plan be filed before registration for the semester in which the necessary work for the degree will be completed.**

#### **MILESTONES:**

**Plan of Study:** The Graduate College requires that a MSEE Plan of Study be filed **BEFORE** the student registers for his/her 17<sup>th</sup> hour of graduate credit. The procedure for submitting the Plan of Study is outlined at <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/planofstudy>.

**Thesis Defense:** A candidate for the Master of Science degree who submits a thesis will submit to an oral defense covering his/her thesis. The thesis and defense will be evaluated by the student’s advisory committee consisting of the thesis advisor and two other ECE faculty members.

## **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE:**

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Electrical Engineering is an academic, research-based degree for students who wish to advance the state-of-the-art in engineering science and technology through fundamental research. The Ph.D. degree prepares students for careers in academic, government, and industrial research.

Students who have filed notice with the Graduate College of intention to become a candidate for the Ph.D. Degree in Electrical Engineering will need an advisory committee. This committee will be chaired by a member of the Faculty of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and will include at least two additional ECE faculty, and should have representation of at least one other department in which the student contemplates taking course(s).

If a student already enrolled as a candidate for the MSEE degree wishes to file notice to become a candidate for the Ph.D. degree, he/she should petition the Graduate College to designate his/her advisor for the Master's program as his/her temporary Ph.D. advisor in order to preserve continuity in his/her program.

**The minimum requirement for the Doctoral Degree is 90 credit-hours beyond a Bachelor's Degree, or approximately 60 hours beyond the Master's Degree.** This includes credit for the dissertation. This requirement may, however, be increased at the discretion of the student's advisory committee. Dissertation credit is determined by the student's major professor or advisory committee (a maximum of 36 semester credit hours is allowed). A typical Plan of Study (beyond the B.S. degree) must have a minimum of 45 coursework hours, a maximum of nine (9) 5000-level research hours, and a maximum of 36 dissertation hours.

The contents of an approved Plan of Study will be determined by the student and his advisory committee. Normally, the student will take all of the courses offered in at least the sequence of specialized graduate work embracing the field of interest in which he proposes to conduct research. A maximum of three (3) 4000-level ECEN courses approved for graduate credit may be included toward the Ph.D. 90 credit hour requirement (including any courses that were included on a MSEE Plan of Study). The list of approved courses is included at the end of this memorandum.

A sufficient concentration of subjects offered by one of the other departments of the Graduate College may be accepted as a minor if the faculty of the department involved is represented on the student's advisory committee.

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering waives the foreign-language requirement for the Ph.D. Degree.

A student may apply for candidacy for the Ph.D. degree upon completing 30 credit-hours beyond the MSEE degree or 60 credit-hours beyond the BSEE degree.

Milestones:

**Initial Assessment Examination (ECEN 6050):** ECEN 6050, Preliminary Research and Recommendation, will be used to evaluate the student's ability to perform independent research on an advanced topic. Note that the research should be *independent*, but it is not necessarily *original* research. The student will provide his/her Ph.D. committee with a document that details his/her research (two weeks before the presentation). In the presentation, the student will summarize his/her research in an oral presentation to the advisory committee and make a recommendation on how the current state-of-the-art might be extended through novel research. Students will receive minimal guidance from the advisor during the preparation of the 6050 document. The submitted document and oral presentation must primarily reflect the student's own work. Enrollment in ECEN 6050 in the first semester after admission to the Ph.D. program is **required**. The oral examination must be taken prior to beginning the second semester after enrollment. The advisory committee has the option of assigning an incomplete grade in ECEN 6050 to students who do not successfully pass the examination on the initial attempt. In this case, the student must repeat and pass the examination prior to the completion of the second semester of study. Students who are admitted directly into the Ph.D. program upon completion of the BS degree will be considered to have entered the Ph.D. program upon completion of 30 hours of graduate credit and must complete the Initial Assessment Examination within two semesters of that time.

**Plan of Study:** An initial Plan of Study must be submitted to the Graduate College prior the completion of the third semester of enrollment. The procedure for submitting the Plan of Study is outlined at <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/planofstudy>.

**Candidacy for Degree:** A student should apply for candidacy for the Ph.D. degree per OSU Graduate College requirements upon completing 30 credit-hours after the MSEE Degree or 60 credit-hours after the Bachelor's degree. The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering requirements for candidacy consist of an initial dissertation proposal in the form of a written outline that has been approved by the Doctoral Committee.

**Final Dissertation Proposal Defense:** The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering requires that a final written dissertation proposal be submitted to the student's advisory committee and defended orally before the committee. It will be evaluated by the advisory committee to judge the candidate's progress toward the dissertation degree requirement and to assess the student's ability to present and defend the results of original research. The proposal and defense will not be used to explore the candidate's comprehension of course work not related to his or her research investigation. The Ph.D. candidate is expected to participate in published scholarship. At the time of the proposal defense the student must have (at least) submitted a paper on his/her research for publication in a peer-reviewed conference or journal. Any deficiencies that may have been uncovered in this report **MUST** have been rectified before a candidate can be permitted to defend the final dissertation. The Final Dissertation Proposal Defense must be successfully completed at least six months prior to the final dissertation defense.

**Dissertation Defense:** The final thesis examination will be conducted to judge the candidate's ability to present and defend the results of original research. Although referred to in the Graduate Catalog as the "final" examination, this examination will not be used to explore the candidate's comprehension of course work not related to his research investigation. At the time of this final

examination, the student must have (at least) submitted a journal paper on his/her research. Any deficiencies that may have been uncovered in previous examinations **MUST** have been rectified before a candidate can be permitted to take his/her thesis examination.

**4000 LEVEL ECEN COURSES APPROVED FOR GRADUATE  
CREDIT WITHIN THE ECEN PROGRAM**

ECEN 4133	Power Electronics
ECEN 4153	Power System Analysis and Design
ECEN 4213	Computer-Based System Design
ECEN 4233	High Speed Computer Arithmetic
ECEN 4243	Computer Architecture
ECEN 4303	Digital Electronics Circuit Design
ECEN 4413	Automatic Control Systems
ECEN 4523	Communication Theory
ECEN 4533	Data Communications
ECEN 4613	Microwave Engineering
ECEN 4763	Introduction to Digital Signal Processing
ECEN 4773	Real Time Digital Signal Processing
ECEN 4823	Design of Optical Systems
ECEN 4843	Design of Lasers and Systems