ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING: PROFESSIONAL, M.S.

This is a named option in the Electrical and Computer Engineering M.S. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/electrical-computer-engineering/electrical-computer-engineering-ms/)

The Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (ECE) offers the Electrical and Computer Engineering M.S.-Professional named option program for students looking for an advanced entry into industrial electrical engineering.

It is designed to deepen the student’s technical knowledge and sharpen their professional skills for a well-prepared entry into industry. The program provides a practical focus through a course-only curriculum, an accelerated and predictable 16-month completion time, and a professional development component. Well-prepared students and UW–Madison undergraduates may find it feasible to complete the program in 12 months.

The student, in consultation with an academic advisor, will choose courses that align well academically and target their career interests. When applying for the ECE M.S.-Professional program, students are required to choose an area of emphasis: Computer Engineering, Electromagnetic Fields and Waves, Solid State and Photonics, Energy and Power Systems, or a specified curriculum path of their own design. The coursework is customized based on the student’s technical interests and is taught by faculty conducting cutting-edge research in their respective fields. The goal of the student’s studies is to expand their knowledge in new technologies, design methods, and analysis techniques. The combined focus on technical skills and professional development will prepare graduates to assume leadership positions in industry.

The focus of the Professional program differs from the traditional research-based M.S. program. M.S.-Professional students do not conduct independent research and prepare a thesis, but rather have an accelerated course plan in a specialty area with a professional development component, either via an internship/co-op, an independent project, or through courses from Engineering Professional Development.

If you are interested in research and advanced concept development, you are better served pursuing a research-based M.S. program or a Ph.D. program. If you want to complete your degree within 16 months and enter the workforce, then the M.S.-Professional program is right for you.

M.S.-Professional students cannot be simultaneously enrolled in another graduate program at UW–Madison while completing this program.

After completing the program, students will earn a diploma stating “Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering,” and the transcript will include the indication “Named Option: Professional.”

For more information on this specific degree plan, please visit the program website (https://advanceyourcareer.wisc.edu/degrees/electrical-engineering/).

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s). Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>This program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>This program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required but may be considered if available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation Required</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete applications as of December 15 are guaranteed to be reviewed, but applicants are welcomed to submit up to March 15 and will be reviewed as space is available.

A submitted online application (https://apply.grad.wisc.edu/) is required, consisting of:

- Resume/CV;
- Statement of purpose; see the suggested guidelines provided by the Graduate School: https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/prepare (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/prepare/)
- Most up to date unofficial transcript(s) from all previous higher education institutions, regardless of whether or not a degree was earned (official transcripts are requested of only recommended applicants); international academic records must be in the original language accompanied by an official English translation.
- Payment of the one-time application fee of $75.00, plus the $6.00 international processing fee; this fee is non-refundable. It can be paid by credit card (MasterCard or Visa) or debit/ATM card.
- Test scores and three letters of recommendation as detailed above.

Applications must be entirely complete by the deadline, including test scores and letters of recommendation. Please note that it is highly advised to take the GRE and TOEFL/IELTS tests well in advance of the application deadline in order to ensure time for receiving and processing of the
scores. Please do not mail any paper copies of application materials, except IELTS scores. They will not be reviewed.

Information for international students, including proof of funding and visa information, can be found on the International Student Services website (https://iss.wisc.edu/students/admissions/).

By Wisconsin state law, the application fee can only be waived or deferred under the conditions outlined by the Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/fee-grant). Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

The department welcomes applications from scientific, engineering, and mathematical disciplines other than ECE.

**REENTRY ADMISSIONS**

If you were previously enrolled as a graduate student at UW–Madison, but have had a break in enrollment for at least one fall or spring semester, you will need to apply to resume your studies.

For applicants previously enrolled in a graduate program other than ECE, you must complete a new online application, including all materials, for admission.

For applicants previously enrolled in ECE as a graduate student, you must complete a reentry application. Reentry applicants may apply for the fall term with a deadline of June 1.

In order to apply as a reentry applicant, you must:

- complete the online application (https://apply.grad.wisc.edu), including the personal information section, program and term selection, and supplementary application;
- Provide the following documents to the ECE Graduate Admissions Team (ecegradadmission@engr.wisc.edu)
  - CV/Resume
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Any new unofficial transcripts from previous higher education institutions
  - Three letters of recommendation if the break in enrollment equals or is greater than four semesters (fall, spring). Letters of recommendation should be emailed directly from the recommender

**CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSIONS**

Students currently enrolled as a graduate student at UW–Madison, whether in or other than ECE, wishing to apply to this degree program should contact the ECE Graduate Admissions Team (ecegradadmission@engr.wisc.edu) to inquire about the process and respective deadlines several months in advance of the anticipated enrollment term. Current students may apply to change or add programs for any term (fall, spring, or summer).

**QUESTIONS?**

Please review the frequently asked questions answered by the Graduate School here (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

If you have any admissions questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ECE Graduate Admissions Team at ecegradadmission@engr.wisc.edu.

**FUNDING**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School.

**PROGRAM RESOURCES**

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments at this institution.

**TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACCELERATED MS PROGRAMS**

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering offers a limited number of scholarships for highly qualified students that are accepted to the department's accelerated MS programs. The scholarships are merit-based and awarded during the admission period.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Must enroll in one of the Department’s two named options programs:
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering: Machine Learning and Signal Processing
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering: Professional

**Scholarship Amounts**

- The amount of the scholarship is indicated when the student is notified of the award.

**Additional Information**

- Students who meet the above criteria are automatically eligible for this scholarship. No formal application by the student is necessary.
- Students will be notified of scholarship award after acceptance to the program.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

**NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Accelerated:** Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

**Evening/Weekend:** Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

**Face-to-Face:** Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

**Hybrid:** These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

**Online:** These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

### CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

#### Requirement Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Credit</td>
<td>23 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Coursework</td>
<td>15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (<a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA Requirement</td>
<td>3.00 GPA required. This program follows the Graduate School’s GPA Requirement policy (<a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203</a>).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Other Grade Requirements | 1. A grade of B or better in any course is acceptable.  
                          | 2. A grade of BC in an E C E course is acceptable, provided the total cumulative GPA for E C E courses is greater than or equal to 3.00.  
                          | 3. A grade of BC or C in a non-E C E course is acceptable only if approved by the Graduate Committee. |
| Assessments and Examinations | n/a |
| Language Requirements | Non-native speakers of English who enroll in the M.S. program must take the ESLAT test on arrival at the university and then take any recommended courses based on the exam results. In addition, if a student’s advisor believes that his or her technical writing ability needs improvement, the student may be required to undertake remedial work. |

#### Elective Courses

12 of the 30 credit hours must be taken within one curriculum path. Please see sample curriculum paths below. Students may take courses from combinations of different paths to create custom degrees that are well-aligned with their professional goals with advisor approval.  

#### Other Course Requirements

21 of the 30 credit hours must be taken in E C E. Approved graduate or undergraduate transfer credits in ECE courses may count toward the 21 E C E credits.

No more than 9 credits can be taken outside of E C E.

Special topics courses E C E 601 Special Topics in Electrical and Computer Engineering or E C E 901 Special Topics in Electrical and Computer Engineering may be used for up to 3 credits towards a curriculum path with advisor approval.

No more than 3 independent study credits count toward the degree. This includes E C E 699 and E C E 999.

No more than 3 credits of ESL courses count toward the degree.

Thesis credits are not allowed (E C E 790 or E C E 890).

Please keep written communications (emails are acceptable) of approvals from your faculty advisor.

### Computer Engineering Sample Curriculum Path

#### Embedded Systems

**Select 12 credits from the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E C E 551</td>
<td>Digital System Design and Synthesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E/COMP SCI 552</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E 555</td>
<td>Digital Circuits and Components</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E/COMP SCI 750</td>
<td>Real-time Computing Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E 751</td>
<td>Embedded Computing Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E 753</td>
<td>Fault-Tolerant Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 537</td>
<td>Introduction to Operating Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Networking and Security

**Select 12 credits from the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E C E 537</td>
<td>Communication Networks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E/COMP SCI 707</td>
<td>Mobile and Wireless Networking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E 751</td>
<td>Embedded Computing Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E 753</td>
<td>Fault-Tolerant Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 537</td>
<td>Introduction to Operating Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 642</td>
<td>Introduction to Information Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 763</td>
<td>Security and Privacy for Data Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Computer-Aided Design

**Select 12 credits from the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E C E 551</td>
<td>Digital System Design and Synthesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 553</td>
<td>Testing and Testable Design of Digital Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 555</td>
<td>Digital Circuits and Components</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 556</td>
<td>Design Automation of Digital Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 751</td>
<td>Embedded Computing Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI 755</td>
<td>VLSI Systems Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI 756</td>
<td>Computer-Aided Design for VLSI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Computer Architecture

Select 12 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECE 551</td>
<td>Digital System Design and Synthesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI 552</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 553</td>
<td>Testing and Testable Design of Digital Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI 752</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Architecture I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI 755</td>
<td>VLSI Systems Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI 757</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Architecture II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/COMP SCI/ EMA/E P/M E 759</td>
<td>High Performance Computing for Applications in Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 537</td>
<td>Introduction to Operating Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 758</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Computer Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E&M Fields and Waves Sample Curriculum Path

Select 12 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECE 447</td>
<td>Applied Communications Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 545</td>
<td>Advanced Microwave Measurements for Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 547</td>
<td>Advanced Communications Circuit Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 740</td>
<td>Electromagnetic Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 742</td>
<td>Computational Methods in Electromagnetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 744</td>
<td>Theory of Microwave Circuits and Devices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/PHYSICS 748</td>
<td>Linear Waves</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/N E/PHYSICS 749</td>
<td>Coherent Generation and Particle Beams</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 841</td>
<td>Antennas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE/PHYSICS 848</td>
<td>Nonlinear Waves</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Energy and Power Systems Sample Curriculum Path

Select 12 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECE 411</td>
<td>Introduction to Electric Drive Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 545</td>
<td>Semiconductor Physics and Devices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 528</td>
<td>Plasma Processing and Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 542</td>
<td>Introduction to Microelectromechanical Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 548</td>
<td>Integrated Circuit Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE 549</td>
<td>Integrated Circuit Fabrication Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The on-campus program, not the online MSEE Power Engineering program.
undergraduate, graduate or certificate programs.

Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed Other Policy

Professional Development Activities

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in one of the professional development activities below:

- With assistance from Engineering Career Services, obtain a summer internship and enroll in up to 2 credits of E C E 702 Graduate Cooperative Education Program.
- Enroll in the summer course INTEREGR 601 Topics in Interdisciplinary Engineering.
- Enroll in up to 3 credits of E C E 699 Advanced Independent Study and be co-supervised by an advisor working in industry (choice of industry advisor is subject to program approval).
- Complete at least two of the online "Foundations of Professional Development" courses. Each course is eight weeks and 1 credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E C E 745</td>
<td>Solid State Electronics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E C E 845</td>
<td>Transport in Semiconductor Devices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Policy

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate, graduate or certificate programs.

Policies

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

This program follows the Graduate School's policy for Satisfying Requirements with Prior Graduate Coursework from Other Institutions. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/)

UW–Madison Undergraduate*

With program approval, UW–Madison courses numbered 400 or above can be counted toward the minimum graduate degree credit requirement, or E C E courses numbered 700 or above can be counted toward the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. No credits can be counted toward the minimum graduate residence credit requirement. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

*ABET-Accredited Undergraduate Credit from Other Institutions: With program approval, students may count undergraduate coursework from a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, or Computer Science from an ABET-accredited program at other institutions (not UW–Madison) toward fulfillment of minimum degree requirements.

Courses numbered 300 or above may be counted toward the minimum graduate degree credit requirement and courses numbered 700 or above may be counted toward the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. No credits from other institutions can be counted toward the minimum graduate residence credit requirement. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count coursework numbered 400 or above, taken as a UW–Madison University Special student, toward the minimum graduate residence credit requirement, and the minimum graduate degree credit requirement. Courses numbered 700 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student are not counted toward the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

(Up to 7 credits total of prior coursework can be used from the categories above.)

PROBATION

This program follows the Graduate School's Probation policy. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/)
ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
All students are required to conduct a yearly progress report meeting with their advisor, scheduled by December 17 and completed by April 30. Failure to do so will result in a hold being placed on the student’s registration.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME LIMITS
Students are expected to complete the degree requirements and graduate within 3 academic semesters.

If students have been absent for five or more years, they must file a new Graduate School application for admission and submit it with a new application fee. This program follows the Graduate School’s Time Limits policy. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/)

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
  - Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students)
  - Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation)
  - Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities)
  - Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review)
  - Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination)
  - Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
  - Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students)
  - Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

ECE Grievance Procedures
Exceptions, Extensions, and Appeals

Petitions for exceptions to academic requirements are considered on an individual case-by-case basis and granted exceptions do not constitute a precedent. Deviations from established policies are strongly discouraged, but certain extenuating academic and personal circumstances may warrant exceptions. Petitions for course exceptions/substitutions, exceptions to the Satisfactory Progress Expectations (academic or conduct), or other policy exceptions shall be directed to the ECE Graduate Committee, and in some circumstances to the appropriate program coordinator. The following procedures apply to all petitions:

1. Student must first consult with their advisor(s).
2. Student is advised to also consult with the ECE Graduate Student Services Coordinator for additional advice.
3. Student and advisor(s) must both submit written documentation requesting and explaining the petition to the ECE Graduate Student Services Coordinator.
4. Identify the specific requirement/rule/expectation pertinent to the petition;
5. Explain the rationale for petition and why it should be granted;
6. Advisor(s) must support the petition.

The ECE Graduate Student Services Coordinator will forward the petition to the ECE Graduate Committee and appropriate program coordinator for adjudication. Student and advisor(s) will be notified of the ECE Graduate Committee’s decision and the note will be placed in the student’s file.

Please note that petitions for exceptions to clearly-defined program rules are rarely approved by the ECE Graduate Committee.

Progress Requirements

The ECE Graduate Committee may grant extensions to normal progress requirements in circumstances such as childbirth, adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elderly or dependent care obligations, disability or chronic illness, or circumstances beyond one’s personal control. Petitions for extensions should provide evidence of plans and ability to return to conformance with program expectations and to acceptably complete the program. Extensions beyond one semester will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances. Extensions will be recorded with a note of explanation placed in the student’s file.

Students desiring confidentiality of their circumstances should consult with the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies.

Appeal of Previous Decisions

Appeals of ECE Graduate Committee decisions may be pursued regarding any academic issue, including exceptions to program requirements, progress requirements, AGS and Qualifying Exam decisions. Appeals will only be considered if the student provides new information that was not available to the ECE Graduate Committee at the time the original decision was made. Appeals must be submitted within one month of the date the student was notified of the ECE Graduate Committee action being appealed.

If the student believes their appeal was not appropriately handled or resolved by the ECE Department, the student may further appeal to the College of Engineering by contacting the Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs. Such appeals must be submitted within one month of the date the student was notified of the ECE Graduate Committee denial.

Grievances

The ECE Department, College of Engineering, and University of Wisconsin offer multiple avenues to resolve unfair or inappropriate treatment by
faculty, staff, or another student. This includes hostile and intimidating research group climate, authorship disputes, unreasonable expectations, and disrespectful behavior. The manner in which the grievance is handled depends on the nature of the issue and specific concerns of the aggrieved student. Graduate Assistants in TA, PA and/or RA appointments may utilize the Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/) (GAPP) grievance process to resolve employment-related issues. Examples of matters appropriate for the GAPP grievance process include allegations of excessive work hours, violations of sick days or vacation policies, or disputes regarding the assignment of duties.

In some cases the best approach is for the aggrieved student to discuss their concern directly with the person responsible for the objectionable action.

If the student is uncomfortable making direct contact with the other individual or desires a confidential consultation about their concern, they may contact the ECE Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, the ECE Grievance Advisor, or the College of Engineering Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs. These individuals work to resolve the concern while being sensitive to student confidentiality.

Change of advisor

Students who believe they are in a research environment that fails to meet ECE and College of Engineering standards for climate and culture should contact the ECE Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, the ECE Grievance Advisor, or the College of Engineering Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs for additional consultation. They will work with the student to explore alternate advising arrangements and ensure continuity of financial support should the student need to leave the research group. Note that immigration status is NOT tied to a specific research advisor.

Formal Written Complaint Process

Issues that are not resolved to the student’s satisfaction may be pursued at the student’s discretion by submitting a written complaint to the ECE Grievance Advisor. The steps described below are based on the Definition and Procedure section of the Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/) (GAPP) Grievance Procedure.

Step One: The grievant must file a written statement with the ECE Grievance Advisor specifying the grievant’s name, a clear and concise statement of the grievance and the issue(s) involved, the date(s) the incident or violation took place and the specific departmental, college, or university policies involved, and the relief sought. The grievance shall be signed and dated by the grievant(s) and representative (if any).

Within twenty (20) days of receipt of the written grievance, the ECE Grievance Advisor will meet with the grievant and their representative (if chosen) to hear the grievance and will return a written answer to the grievant and their representative (if chosen) no later than ten (10) days after this meeting. This answer will include a copy of the grievance procedure appeal process timeline, a list of resources and relevant contact information for future steps.

Step Two: If the decision in Step One is not accepted by the grievant, the grievant shall have 10 days from receipt of the answer in Step One to file an appeal with the College of Engineering Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs. The Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs will meet with the grievant and their representative (if chosen) within twenty (20) days from receipt of the appeal of Step One and attempt to resolve the grievance.

The Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs will provide the grievant and their representative (if chosen) with a written response to the grievance no later than ten (10) days after this meeting.

Step Three: If the decision in Step Two is not accepted by the grievant, the grievant shall have 10 days from the receipt of the answer in Step Two to file an appeal with the Graduate School as described in Grievances and Appeals (https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/).

OTHER

Students are strongly encouraged to pursue positions as Project Assistants, Teaching Assistants or Research Assistants during their time in this program, as the rigor and accelerated nature of this program may not accommodate those work time commitments. Students in this program will not receive the tuition remission that is typically part of the compensation package for a graduate assistantship.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING RESOURCES

UW–Madison, the College of Engineering, and ECE have an abundance of professional development opportunities for students to take advantage of in order to better prepare themselves for internships and job positions during and following their education. First of all, the ECE Department strongly encourages students to utilize the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/). Engineering Career Services (ECS) (http://ecs.wisc.edu) hosts multiple career fairs each semester where students can directly interact with prospective employers, schedule interviews, and find internships and full-time jobs. ECS also maintains job listings and hosts a variety of professional development workshops each semester. The ECE Department provides unique opportunities throughout the year for students to attend and participate in various lectures, workshops, and trainings. The ECE Graduate Student Association (GSA) organizes professional development opportunities for fellow students. Students are made aware of events and opportunities via email and other communications.

PEOPLE

PROFESSORS

Susan Hagness (Chair)
Nader Behdad
Daniel Botez
Azadeh Davoodi
John A. Gubner (Associate Chair for Operations)
Yu Hen Hu
Hongrui Jiang (Associate Chair for Graduate Studies)
Irena Knezevic
Bernard Lesieutre (Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies)
Mikko Lipasti
Zhenqiang Ma
Luke J. Mawst
Robert Nowak
Parameswaran Ramanathan
Bulent Sarlioglu
William A. Sethares
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Setareh Behroozi
Eric Hoffman
Joe Krachey
Srdjan Milicic

TEACHING PROFESSOR
Eduardo Arvelo
Steven Fredette
Nathan Strachen

See also Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty Directory (https://directory.engr.wisc.edu/ece/faculty/).