ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures).

The PhD program in Electrical Engineering is divided into two Programs of Study:

- Solid-State & Photonics
- Signals & Systems

There are requirements common to both Programs as well as additional requirements specific to each Program.

Common Requirements

Course Requirements

- EE requires a minimum of 15 graded courses that count for graduate (TGS) credit, not including ELEC_ENG 590-0. The cumulative grade point average over these graded courses must be a B (3.0 GPA) or higher. Courses that provide zero units of credit do not count toward these 15 units.

- At least 6 of these 15 units must be 400- or 500-level courses.

- At most 2 of these 15 units can be ELEC_ENG 499-0. This course is reserved for projects that are not directly related to the research required for the PhD thesis or for readings in specific subjects for which the ECE Department has no regular courses. ELEC_ENG 499-0 is not intended to replace or augment the required units of ELEC_ENG 590-0.

- All PhD students are required to complete the zero-credit Responsible Conduct for Research Training (GEN_ENG 519-0) during their first year.

- A student’s adviser may require more than the minimum number of courses. In such cases, the number of required ELEC_ENG 590-0 units will be reduced accordingly.

Other PhD Requirements

- Teaching Requirement
- Qualifying Examination
- Prospectus
- Dissertation
- Final Exam (dissertation defense)

Additional requirements and processes are detailed in the Electrical Engineering Graduate Study Guide.

Solid-State & Photonics

Course Requirements

Total Units Required: 15

Course | Title
---|---
ELEC_ENG 382-0 | Photonic Information Processing
ELEC_ENG 383-0 | Fiber-Optic Communications
ELEC_ENG 388-0 | Nanotechnology

Area-specific courses in Solid-State & Photonics

Electives must be approved by the student’s adviser, and may include the following courses:

- ELEC_ENG 339-0 | Advanced Electronic Devices
- ELEC_ENG 430-0 | Quantum Electronics
- ELEC_ENG 450-0 | Advanced Photonics
- ELEC_ENG 458-0 | Nonlinear Optics
- ELEC_ENG 485-0 | Classical Electrodynamics

Signals & Systems

Course Requirements

Total Units Required: 15

Course | Title
---|---
Core courses in Signals & Systems

Each student must take the following 4 courses:

- ELEC_ENG 307-0 | Communications Systems
- ELEC_ENG 359-0 | Digital Signal Processing
- ELEC_ENG 410-0 | System Theory
- ELEC_ENG 422-0 | Random Processes in Communications and Control 1

Elective courses in Signals & Systems

Each student must take at least 3 of the following courses:

- ELEC_ENG 332-0 | Introduction to Computer Vision
- ELEC_ENG 333-0 | Introduction to Communication Networks
- ELEC_ENG 360-0 | Introduction to Feedback Systems
- ELEC_ENG 378-0 | Digital Communications
- ELEC_ENG 420-0 | Digital Image Processing
- BMD_ENG 402-0 | Advanced Systems Physiology
- ELEC_ENG 395-0 | Special Topics in Electrical Engineering (Cardiovascular Instrumentation)
- ELEC_ENG 495-0 | Special Topics in Electrical Engineering (Cardiovascular Instrumentation)

Area-specific courses in Signals & Systems

Electives must be approved by the student’s adviser, and may include the following courses:

- ELEC_ENG 363-0 | Digital Filtering
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<td>ELEC_ENG 374-0</td>
<td>Introduction to Digital Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELEC_ENG 380-0</td>
<td>Wireless Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELEC_ENG 418-0</td>
<td>Advanced Digital Signal Processing</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 421-0</td>
<td>Multimedia Signal Processing</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 423-0</td>
<td>Random Processes in Communications and Control 2</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 424-0</td>
<td>Distributed Optimization</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 426-0</td>
<td>Signal Detection and Estimation</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 427-0</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 428-0</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 432-0</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 454-0</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 463-0</td>
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<td>ELEC_ENG 475-0</td>
<td>Machine Learning: Foundations, Applications, and Algorithms</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELEC_ENG 478-0</td>
<td>Advanced Digital Communications</td>
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