

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL &
COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

**GRADUATE STUDENT
SURVIVAL MANUAL
2025-26**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA**

(last updated 2/2026)

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ECE CONTACT INFORMATION

PERSONNEL

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- Vice Chair of Graduate Studies: • **Professor Elaheh Ahmadi**
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- Graduate Advisor: • **Professor Elaheh Ahmadi**
Engineering Science Bldg. (ESB), Room 2215F, x7113
- ECE Student Office: • **Erika Klukovich**, Graduate Student Affairs Manager
Bldg. 697, Room 101, x2269
- **Ian Hall**, Graduate Admissions Coordinator
Bldg. 380, Room 101, x3114
- **Beth English**, Undergraduate Program Officer
Bldg. 380, Room 105, x8292
- **Joanna Villalobos**, Undergraduate Program Advisor
Bldg. 380, Room 101, x5368

IMPORTANT LOCATIONS

	Room	Phone
Graduate Student Office	Bldg. 697, Room 101	x2269
Graduate Admissions Office	Bldg. 380, Room 101	x3114
Student Mailboxes	Harold Frank Hall, Room 5154	N/A
Faculty/Staff Mailboxes	Harold Frank Hall, Room 4164	N/A
ECE Dept. Office (Chair)	Harold Frank Hall, Room 4157	x3821
ECE Employment (GSR only)	Harold Frank Hall, Room 4102	x8748
ECE Budget Office	Harold Frank Hall, Room 4115	various
ECE Central Admin. Office	Harold Frank Hall, Room 4155	x3716
ECE TA Offices	Trailer 699, Room 103	N/A
Ryan Sims, Graduate Academic Counselor	Cheadle Hall, Room 3117 (email: ryan.sims@graddiv.ucsb.edu)	x2068

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025-26

See the 2025-26 [Registration Pass Times](#) & [Academic Calendar](#) for additional dates!

FALL 2025 QUARTER

9/15/25 - 9/19/25	Graduate Division - Graduate Success Series (core competency-based orientation series to replace the traditional New Graduate Student Convocation)
9/15/25 - 9/22/25	Campuswide Asynchronous activities for TA
9/21/25, Sunday	Quarter officially begins
9/22/25, Monday	ECE Orientation for Graduate Students, 10:00am - 11:30am, Henley Hall 1010
9/22/25, Monday	ECE Department TA Orientation, 1:00pm - 2:30pm, Henley Hall 1010
9/22/25 - 9/23/25, Monday & Tuesday	Campus-Wide TA & Reader Orientation https://id.ucsb.edu/teaching/ta-training/ta-workshops
9/24/25, Wednesday	Campus-wide Orientation Luncheon and Resource Fair, 11:00am -1:00pm, Chemistry Lawn
9/23/25, Tuesday	Lab Safety Meeting, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, Location: TBA
9/25/25, Thursday	Fall '25 instruction begins
9/25/25, Thursday	Last day for student to pay all “now due” charges on the September 1 BARC statement or to complete financial aid processing. A \$50 late payment fee will be assessed after 4 p.m. on this date.
10/1/25	Last day to add a course w/o an approval code.
10/3/25, Friday	ECE Ph.D. Screening Exam for those majoring in Controls.
10/15/25	Last day to add courses.
11/11/25, Monday	Veteran’s Day Holiday
11/27/25 & 11/28/25, Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday
12/5/25, Friday	Last day to drop courses or change grading option for the quarter
12/5/25, Friday	Last day of instruction
12/6/25 - 12/12/25	Final Exams
12/12/25, Friday	Last day to present theses or dissertations, e-file, and submit paperwork to the Graduate Division to receive Fall 2025 degree. View all filing deadlines here .
12/12/25, Friday	Last day to submit Incomplete Grade Petitions with the Instructor’s signature to the Office of the Registrar.
12/12/25, Friday	Degree candidates must have all transfer coursework and examinations completed no later than this date for current quarter graduation.
12/12/25, Friday	Quarter ends
12/17/25, Wednesday	eGrades submission deadlines (for Fall '25 TAs assisting with grading)

WINTER 2026 QUARTER*

(Abbreviated schedule, see Winter "[Academic Calendar](#)" when available.)

1/5/26, Monday	Quarter officially begins
1/5/26, Monday	Instruction begins
1/19/26, Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)
2/16/26, Monday	President's Day (Holiday)
3/13/26, Friday	Instruction ends
3/14/26 – 3/20/26	Final exams
3/20/26, Friday	Last day to present theses or dissertations, e-file, and submit paperwork to the Graduate Division to receive Winter 2025 degree. View all filing deadlines here .
3/20/26, Friday	Degree candidates must have all transfer coursework and examinations completed no later than this date for current quarter graduation.
3/20/26, Friday	Quarter ends

SPRING 2026 QUARTER*

(Abbreviated schedule, see Spring "[Academic Calendar](#)" when available.)

3/30/26, Monday	Quarter officially begins
3/30/26, Monday	Instruction begins
4/3/26, Friday	ECE Ph.D. Screening Examination for those majoring in Controls
5/25/26, Monday	Memorial Day (Holiday)
6/5/26, Friday	Instruction ends
6/8/26 – 6/12/26	Final exams
6/12/26, Friday	Quarter ends
TBD	Graduate Division Commencement
6/16/26, Tuesday	Last day to present theses or dissertations, e-file, and submit paperwork to the Graduate Division to receive Spring 2026 degree. View all filing deadlines here .
6/16/26, Tuesday	Degree candidates must have all transfer coursework and examinations completed no later than this date for current quarter graduation.

* Information subject to change.

I. INTRODUCTION

This Survival Manual is intended as a guide; its purpose is to assist the student in selecting the program of study best suited to their needs and interests and to furnish help and guidance in the routine procedures involved in the pursuit of the program. Every effort is made to keep this manual current, although information is changing constantly. Please contact Erika Klukovich in the ECE Graduate Student Office (Building 697, Room 101; erika@ece.ucsb.edu) with any questions or should you notice any erroneous information.

II. ECE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) graduate program offers Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees, which differ in scope and degree requirements. The department offers these programs in several topics that fall under three major Program Areas: CE, CCSP, and EP; which are summarized in the following tables.

Computer Engineering (CE)

Computer Architecture	Software Systems
Computational Models, Algorithms, and Analysis	Scientific Computation
Graphics and Image Processing	Machine Intelligence/Learning
Very Large Scale Integration and Design Automation	

Communications, Control, and Signal Processing (CCSP)

Biomedical Signal and Image Processing, Imaging Systems	Computer Graphics and Computational Photography
Computer Vision, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning	Cyber-Physical Systems, Network Control and Power Systems
Distributed Computation	Information Theory and Rate Distortion, and Multimedia Data Compression
Multi-Agent Systems, Robotics	Next Generation Wireless Communication
Signal Processing Fundamentals and Algorithms	Robotics and Locomotion
Multi-Agent Systems, Cooperative Control and Game Theory	Nonlinear, Hybrid and Robust Control
Scientific and Engineering Computation Algorithms	

Electronics and Photonics (EP)

Compound Semiconductors and Widebandgap Semiconductor Technologies	Quantum Electronics and Nanoscience
Electromagnetics, Optics and Antennas	RF/Wireless Electronics Systems

Growth and Properties of Electronic Materials and Quantum Structures	RF and Optical Communications
Integrated Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) and Micromachining Technologies	Semiconductor Device Physics
Modern Device and Int. Circuit Processing and Fabrication	Optical Communication Networks
Opto-Electronic Devices and Photonic Integrated Circuits	Solid-State Lighting and Displays
Quantum Mechanics and Solid-State Physics	Ultra High-Speed Devices and Circuits

All graduate programs are supervised by the Graduate Council and are administered by the Dean of the Graduate Division. At the departmental level, graduate programs are under the direction of the ECE Department Chair, the ECE Graduate Advisor, and the ECE Graduate Administration Committee. The Department's **Graduate Advisor**, who is appointed by the Dean of the Graduate Division on the recommendation of the Department Chair, oversees all graduate matters affecting the Department and represents the Department in dealings with the Graduate Division.

The choice of a program of study is primarily that of the student. Each student is assigned a faculty advisor, whose technical interests coincide with those of the student. The faculty advisor is available for consultation and guidance in course selection and matters related to the student's technical program.

Each Master's student must complete and submit to the ECE Graduate Student Office a formal MS Study Plan approved by their faculty advisor by the end of their graduating quarter.

III. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Each degree has a set of requirements that must be fulfilled for UCSB to grant that degree. Some of these requirements are common to all graduate programs and are imposed by the Graduate Division. The ECE Department is responsible for the remaining requirements, which vary depending on the Program Area.

The degree requirements for the graduate programs listed below are intended to be flexible so that the program of study can be tailored as much as possible to the needs and interests of the student. The student may petition for a variation or waiver of any given requirement. For departmental requirements, the petition may take the form of a letter written to the person or committee with appropriate authority, typically the Department's Graduate Advisor. For Graduate Division requirements, the request should be submitted on a petition form, which can be downloaded from the following website: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic-services/forms-petitions>.

Degree requirements are sometimes altered to accommodate for technical, academic, or administrative changes. However, students are held to the requirements in effect when they enter the ECE graduate program unless they have written permission for an exception from the Department Graduate Advisor in the case of departmental requirements, or the Dean of the Graduate Division in the case of Graduate Division requirements.

Further information on requirements and procedures may be obtained from the ECE Graduate

Student Office and from the Graduate Division. The student is also expected to read relevant sections of the University's publications: the General Catalog <https://ucsbcatalog.coursedog.com/> and the Graduate Division website: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/our-services/academic-services>.

A. MASTER OF SCIENCE

ECE expects M.S. students to attain the degree in six quarters or less. However, M.S. students have up to four years to actually finish the degree. Students who are unable to complete the M.S. in four years must petition the Graduate Council for an extension of degree deadline. The Graduate Division makes note of all M.S. students who have been granted an extension and consults with the Department about their progress.

Graduate studies leading to the M.S. degree in ECE are administered under either **Plan I**, which requires coursework and a thesis; or **Plan II**, which requires coursework and a comprehensive examination. The requirements for obtaining an M.S. degree under each plan are listed below:

Graduate Division Requirements (common to both plans)

Residency	Three or more academic quarters in which the student completes 8 units or more of coursework. All courses (including lower division courses and courses outside the department) count toward residency.
GPA	3.0 (B) or more on all courses taken
Fee	Student must be registered during the quarter in which the degree is awarded or file a filing fee leave of absence petition and pay a filing fee.

ECE Requirements (common to both plans)

Coherecy	<p>Study plan approved by the faculty assuring appropriate breadth and degree of specialization.</p> <p>Besides listing the courses needed to fulfill the major program requirements (needed for the three program areas: CE, CCSP, and EP) and the minor program requirements (only CE and CCSP), the Study Plan must also indicate any work required to meet any deficiency in undergraduate preparation.</p>
Course load	<p>Remain enrolled in a minimum of 12 units per quarter. All courses (including lower division courses and courses outside the department) count toward this requirement.</p> <p>How many courses to take in order to meet this requirement depends on a variety of factors, including the extent to which one must work for financial support, fluency in English, the quality of preparation, and the relative difficulty of the courses selected. In addition to formal coursework, the following courses may be advisable to meet this requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project and research courses (ECE 596). • TAs assisting in ECE courses may register for ECE 502. • Students studying for the M.S. Comprehensive Exam (Plan I) may register for ECE 597. • Plan I M.S. students complete their thesis under units of ECE 598.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses numbered 595 only carry one unit applicable to this requirement.
Coursework	<p>Complete at least 42 units of coursework. ECE 295, 502, 595, 597 cannot count.</p> <p>The following courses <u>do not</u> count toward this requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses graded B- or below. • Lower division courses (course number less than 100). • ECE or CMPSC upper-division (course number greater than 100 but less than 200) required courses for the undergraduate Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering degrees or those courses that are prerequisites to graduate courses already successfully completed. • Courses in Technology Management (TMP) or Media Arts & Technology (MAT). • Courses numbered 595, which must be taken for an S/U grade. • Courses numbered 597. • ECE 295 and ECE 502. • Linguistics (LING) or Writing (WRIT) courses as required either through the ELPE or the TA English Language Evaluation. <p>An Incomplete (I) grade acquired in one quarter must be removed by the end of the next quarter, or earlier. Otherwise, the "I" automatically becomes an "F" or "U".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student will be allowed to carry No Grades (NG) and No Records (NR) for only one quarter past when the course was originally undertaken before the NG or NR automatically reverts to a failing grade. This brings the grade notations of NG and NR in line with the policy governing Incomplete grades, except that student will not be able to petition for extensions of NG and NR as they can with an Incomplete.
GPA	<p>3.0 (B) average in all courses in the 100-, 200- and 500-series, taken as a graduate student with the letter grade option. A student may only sign up for 595 and 596 courses with the S/U grading option, which therefore do not count toward this requirement.</p> <p>Grades received for courses taken outside the ECE Department will be counted in the student's grade-point average, whether or not they are acceptable toward the degree. However, lower division (numbered 1-99) courses do not count towards the GPA calculation.</p>
Area	Area Course requirements specific to the student's program area (CE, CCSP, or EP), as discussed in Section A.1 .
EMS (English for Multilingual Students)	Linguistics courses passed for those students who were placed in such courses as a result of taking the English Language Placement Exam (ELPE) or TA English Language Evaluation. See Section I for details.
Incompletes	No Incomplete grades remaining.

ECE requirements specific to Plan I (Thesis)

Form	A Committee Nomination Form I and Conflict of Interest Disclosure is required to establish a thesis committee with the Graduate Division. This form is completed online via the Committee Create Workflow in GradPoint; see here for instructions. University committee required are
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	located with Graduate Division website's here .
Courses	<p>8 courses meeting the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to a maximum of 12 units from undergraduate level senior elective courses; • up to a maximum of 8 units from ECE 493, 596, independent study or any course taken with the S/U grade option; • a minimum of 5 courses in ECE (for CE majors the 5 courses may be in ECE and/or Computer Science; for EP majors the 5 courses must be from the EP course list); • Excluding all upper-division courses required for the BS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering (ECE 130A/B, 134, 139, 152A, 153A/B, 154A, CMPSC 130A, ENGR 101 and PSTAT 120A), and courses in Technology Management (TMP) and Media Arts & Technology (MAT). • 194R, 295, 594R, 595 courses cannot count
Thesis	<p>8 units of ECE 598 and an approved thesis filed.</p> <p>See Section A.2 for detailed thesis and thesis committee policy information.</p>

ECE requirements specific to Plan II (Comprehensive Exam)

Form	MS Comprehensive Committee form filed.
Courses	<p>10 courses meeting the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to a maximum of 16 units from undergraduate level senior elective courses; • up to a maximum of 8 units from ECE 493, 596, independent study or any course taken with the S/U grade option; • a minimum of 7 courses in ECE (for CE majors 7 courses may be in ECE and/or Computer Science) • Excluding all upper-division courses required for the BS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering (ECE 130A/B, 134, 139, 152A, 153A/B, 154A, CMPSC 130A, ENGR 101 and PSTAT 120A), and courses in Technology Management (TMP) and Media Arts & Technology (MAT). • 194R, 295, 594R, 595 courses cannot count
Exam	<p>Comprehensive exam passed. An M.S. candidate with serious interest in the doctoral program may take the Ph.D. Screening Examination in lieu of the M.S. Comprehensive Examination.</p> <p>See Section A.3 for detailed comprehensive exam policy information.</p>

A.1 Program Areas

Each Program Area has specific course requirements for the M.S. degree, which are listed below.

IMPORTANT: After taking a particular course, students may not get credit for prerequisites to that course. For example, if ECE 158 is the prerequisite for ECE 258, a student who has already taken ECE 258 in winter 2024 may not get credit for ECE 158 taken the following fall 2024 towards the M.S. degree requirement.

Computer Engineering

The Computer Engineering M.S. Degree requires a student to take four graduate (200) level courses in one of three major areas defined below and two graduate (200) level courses in one of the remaining six areas as a minor, i.e. other than the chosen major area. No course taken in the major area can be used to fulfill the minor requirement, and vice versa, even if the course is listed in more than one area.

The major must be taken in one of these three areas: a) Very Large Scale Integration and Design Automation; b) Computer Architecture, or c) Machine Intelligence/Learning.

Very Large Scale Integration and Design Automation		Computer Architecture	
ECE 220A	Semiconductor Device Processing	ECE 251	Mobile Embedded Systems
ECE 223	High-Performance Digital Circuit Design	ECE 252B	Computer Arithmetic
ECE 224A	VLSI Project Design	ECE 253	Embedded Systems Design
ECE 225	High Speed Digital Integrated Circuit Design	ECE 254A	Advanced Computer Architecture: Processor Design
ECE 256C	Advanced VLSI Architecture and Design	ECE 254B	Advanced Computer Architecture: Parallel Processing
ECE 272A	Machine Learning in Design and Test Automation	ECE 257A	Fault-Tolerant Computing
ECE 272B	Artificial Intelligence in Design and Test Automation	ECE 274	Neurally Inspired Computing Systems
ECE 272C	AI Agents for the Semiconductor Industry	CS 240A	Applied Parallel Computing
CS 266	Formal Specification and Verification	CS 254	Advanced Computer Architecture
CS 267	Automated Verification	CS 271	Advanced Topics in Distributed Systems

Machine Intelligence/Learning		Graphics and Image Processing	
ECE 272A	Machine Learning in Design and Test Automation	CS 280	Computer Graphics
ECE 272B	Artificial Intelligence in Design and Test Automation	CS 281B/ ECE 281B	Advanced Topics in Computer Vision
ECE 272C	AI Agents for the Semiconductor Industry	ECE 278A	Digital Image Processing
ECE 273	Tensor Computation for Machine Learning and Big Data	ECE 278C	Imaging Systems

ECE 275	From Statistical Mechanics to Quantum Computing: A Unified View	ECE/CS 285	Advanced Image Synthesis
ECE 278A	Digital Image Processing		
ECE 281/ CS 281	Advanced Topics in Computer Vision		
ECE 283	Machine Learning: A Signal Processing Perspective		
ECE 284	Theoretical Machine Learning		

Software Systems		Computational Models, Algorithms, and Analysis	
CS 240A	Applied Parallel Computing	CS 220	Theory of Computation and Complexity
CS 240B	Parallel Computing and Program Parallelization	CS 225/ ECE 205	Information Theory
CS 260	Advanced Topics in Program Analysis	CS 220	Theory of Computation and Complexity
CS 263	Modern Programming Languages and Implementation	CS 230	Approximations, NP-Completeness and Algorithms
CS 266	Formal Specification and Verification	CS 231	Topics in Combinatorial Algorithms
CS 267	Automated Verification	CS 266	Formal Specification and Verification
CS 270	Operating Systems	CS 267	Automated Verification
CS 272	Software Engineering	ECE 229	Hybrid Systems
CS 273	Data and Knowledge Bases	ECE 273	Tensor Computation for Machine Learning and Big Data
CS 274	Advanced Topics in Database Systems	ECE 275	From Statistical Mechanics to Quantum Computing: A Unified View

Scientific Computation	
CS 211A/ ECE 210A	Matrix Analysis and Computation
CS 211B/ ECE 210B	Numerical Simulation
CS 211C/ ECE 210C	Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations
CS 211D/ ECE 210D	Finite Difference Methods/Finite Element Methods

CS 216/ECE 226	Level Set Methods
ECE 271A	Principles of Optimization
ECE 271B	Numerical Optimization Methods
ECE 271C	Optimal Control of Dynamic Systems
ECE 273	Tensor Computation for Machine Learning and Big Data

Communications, Control, and Signal Processing

Students in the CCSP area have two options for the major: Communications and Signal Processing or Control.

Communications and Signal Processing

All students majoring in the communications and signal processing field must take ECE 235 and three additional courses from the following table. Any prerequisite courses not in the list can be used as credit towards the degree, but cannot be used to satisfy the major requirement (or the minor requirement described below).

In addition to the major, students are required to have a **minor area**.

A minor in Communications or Signal Processing requires the student to take two courses from the following table, other than the courses required for their major. ECE 235 is not required for a minor in this area; however, it is strongly recommended.

This means a student can satisfy their major and minor requirements in the Communications and Signal Processing area by taking ECE 235 and any five additional classes from the following table.

Alternatively, the students majoring in Communications and Signal Processing can satisfy their minor requirements by taking two courses from one of the following areas:

- Control (typically 230A and another from the Control course list below)
- Scientific Computation (typically ECE 210A/B/C/D)
- Optimization (typically 271A/B/C)

Any given course can only be counted once, to either satisfy the major or the minor course requirements.

Communications and Signal Processing	
ECE 235*	Stochastic Processes

ECE 205/ CS 225	Information Theory	ECE 282	Error Correcting Codes
ECE 240	Optimal Estimation and Filtering	ECE 283	Machine Learning: A Signal Processing Perspective
ECE 241	Multimedia Compression	ECE 284	Theoretical Machine Learning
ECE 242	Digital Signal Compression	ECE/CS 285	Advanced Image Synthesis
ECE 243A	Digital Communication Theory	ECE 271A	Principles of Optimization
ECE 245	Adaptive Algorithms for Data Analysis and Modeling	ECE 277	Pattern Recognition
ECE 250	Wireless Communication and Networking	ECE 278A	Digital Image Processing
ECE 258	Multirate Digital Signal Processing	ECE 278C	Imaging Systems
ECE 281/ CS 281**	Advanced Topics in Computer Vision	ECE 594N	Geometric Machine Learning

* ECE 235 is **mandatory** for all students majoring in communications or signal processing.

** ECE/CS 281 means ECE/CS 281B.

Control

All students in the control field must take four courses from the following table. Any prerequisite courses not in the list can be used as credit towards the degree, but cannot be used to satisfy the major requirement (or the minor requirement described below).

Control			
One required course from this list:		Three additional courses from this list:	
ECE 230A	Linear Systems I	ECE 147B	Digital Control Systems Theory and Design
		ECE 229	Hybrid Systems
		ECE 230B	Linear Systems II
		ECE 232	Robust Control with Applications
		ECE 234	Identification for Control
		ECE 236	Nonlinear Control Systems
		ECE 237	Nonlinear Control Design
		ECE 238	Advanced Control Systems Design Laboratory
		ECE 240	Optimal Estimation and Filtering
		ECE 247	System Identification
		ECE 248	Kalman and Adaptive Filtering
		ECE 249	Adaptive Control Systems
		ECE 269	Network Systems
		ECE 270	Non-cooperative Game Theory
		ECE 271A	Principles of Optimization

		ECE 271C	Optimal Control of Dynamic Systems
		ECE 289	Introduction to Robotics: Dynamics & Control

In addition to the major, students are required to have a minor area. A minor can be in one of the following areas:

- Signal Processing or Communication (by meeting the minor requirement in that area, see above)
- Computer Engineering (minor courses must be in the same program category)
- Electronics & Photonics
- Scientific Computation (typically ECE 210A/B/C/D)
- Optimization (typically ECE 271A/B/C)
- Dynamical Systems (typically ME 201, ME 202, Math 243A/B/C)
- Mathematics (typically Math 228A/B, Math 246A/B/C, P/Stat 222A/B/C)

The courses listed for the minor areas are only representative; students should consult with their advisors and choose two courses that provide sufficient depth in the minor. Students may also propose a program of minor study in a technical area not listed above. However, any courses taken to satisfy the major requirement cannot be used to satisfy the minor requirement. The student's advisor and Department Graduate Advisor must approve such programs.

Electronics and Photonics

The faculty of the Electronics and Photonics group offer many undergraduate and graduate courses that can be grouped into sequences as shown below. Additional courses from other areas and departments are also listed when appropriate. Courses marked with an "*" are generally taught every other year. The majority of the classes must be taken from the following list and must be graduate courses in EP. If doing the thesis option, you must take 5 graduate courses in EP. If doing the Comprehensive Exam option, you must take 6 graduate courses in EP; any MATRL graduate courses count as EP graduate courses.

Technology	Electromagnetics	Device Physics and Quantum Mechanics
ECE 120A, B	ECE 144	ECE 162A, B
ECE 220A, B	ECE 201A	ECE 211A, B*
ECE 260A	ECE 261	ECE 215A, B
		ECE 221A, B
		ECE 261

Electronic Materials	Electronics	Photonics and Optoelectronics
ECE 162A (or Physics 115 A, B)	ECE 120A, B	ECE 135
ECE 162B	ECE 122A	ECE 136A, B, C
ECE 211A, B*	ECE 142	ECE 162A, B, C
ECE 215A, B	ECE 144	ECE 201A
ECE 216	ECE 218A, B, C	ECE 215A
ECE 217	ECE 220A, B	ECE 227A, B*, C*
MATRL 227*	ECE 224A	ECE 228A, B*
	ECE 225	ECE 260A, B

	ECE 265	ECE 261
		ECE 262
		ECE 265

Graduate students are encouraged to participate in directed research (ECE 596) projects.

A.2 M.S. Thesis/M.S. Thesis Committee (Plan I)

A master's thesis is patterned after a Ph.D. dissertation but on a scaled-down level of originality and length. A public seminar presentation is not required for thesis defense. The thesis must make a significant contribution. Publishable results are encouraged but not required. Some examples of the types of **projects suitable for M.S. thesis** are the following:

an advanced design project, either analytical or experimental;

- an experimental or theoretical contribution to a research problem currently investigated within the Department;
- a critical evaluation of the state-of-the-art of a current research area, going beyond mere literature compilation;
- a critical theoretical analysis or a preliminary experimental study intended as a feasibility study or precursor laying the groundwork for more advanced Ph.D.-level research.

A **Thesis Advisor** must supervise the thesis and a **Thesis Committee** must approve it. The Thesis Committee shall consist of the Thesis Advisor and at least two additional faculty members chosen by the student and approved by the Thesis Advisor, by the Departmental Chair and Departmental Graduate Advisor, and by the Graduate Dean. The Committee must have at least three Academic Senate members (those who hold the title of either Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer with Potential Security of Employment (LPSOE) or Lecturer with Security of Employment or Senior Lecturer (LSOE)), or Teaching Professor, two of whom must be from the department; the third faculty member may be from another department. At the Department's discretion, a non-ladder faculty member may serve as a fourth committee member. The Thesis Committee Chair must be Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor; LSOE or LPSOE or Teaching Professor may serve as co-chair with a Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor.

It is the responsibility of the student to find a faculty member willing to supervise the thesis and a Thesis Committee willing to serve. The Department does not guarantee that such an Advisor and Committee can be found, or that the thesis can be completed within any specified time.

However, the student may at any time switch to a Plan II M.S. degree simply by satisfying the requirements for it. The thesis should be typed in draft form for the Committee. After the Committee approves it, it should be typed in the format set forth in the **Guide to Filing Theses and Dissertations** which may be downloaded from the following website:

<https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic-services/filing>.

A.3 Comprehensive Examination Requirements (Plan II)

A committee of three ladder faculty members selected by the student called the **Examination Committee for the Degree of Master of Science** administers the exam. The Department should approve the student's selections as early as possible in the quarter in which s/he expects to receive the M.S. degree. This is done through the ECE Graduate Student Office. The formation of the M.S. Comprehensive Exam Committee follows the same rules as the formation of the M.S. Thesis Committee.

The Comprehensive Examination for the Master's Degree generally is taken in the last quarter

listed on the student's approved Study Plan, or later, and only if his/her cumulative GPA is 3.0 or above. The student must pass the exam before the end of the quarter in which s/he plans to graduate officially. ***The student is in charge of scheduling the exam.***

For students who ***fail the comprehensive examination*** on the first try, the decision to allow a second try is at the discretion of the Examination Committee.

The different Program Areas (CE, CCSP, and EP) have slightly different formats for the exam, which are described below.

Computer Engineering:

For students with a Computer Engineering emphasis, the examination may be oral or written at the discretion of the examination committee (but not at the discretion of the student).

The MS comprehensive exam committee must consist of three faculty members at least two of whom are in the ECE Department. Two of the committee members must specialize in the student's selected major area and one must be from the selected minor area. The committee chair must be an ECE faculty member in the student's major area. The names of the faculty are given to the ECE Graduate Student Office to check if the committee is good to go. The student after passing the exam, then lets the ECE Graduate Student Office so that paperwork can be routed to the exam committee.

The CE group makes a commitment to schedule the exam within one month of the committee formation.

Communications, Control & Signal Processing:

For students with a Communications, Control & Signal Processing emphasis, the comprehensive examination may take one of the following three forms:

- a) An oral examination on a subset of course material from ECE classes taken by the candidate and taught by faculty on the exam committee
- b) A written examination on a subset of course material from ECE classes taken by the candidate and taught by faculty on the exam committee, or
- c) A seminar presentation of a topic, or project, based on coursework or research.

The exam committee chair decides on the form of the exam after consulting with the student and exam committee members.

In case of a course-based oral or written examination (a or b), the candidate must compile, in consultation with the committee members, a list specifying the scope of the material on which s/he is to be examined on. This list must be approved by the committee chair and made available to all committee members no later than four weeks before the scheduled exam date.

In case of a seminar presentation (c), the candidate is required to prepare a 20-30 minute oral presentation (typically supported by slides) on a topic related to his/her course selections or a research project s/he has carried out.

The committee chair must approve the topic no later than 4 weeks before the scheduled exam date. The oral presentation is followed by a questions and answer session led by the committee

members.

A second exam attempt cannot be scheduled less than 4 weeks after a failed attempt. Candidates are therefore strongly encouraged to schedule their exam early in the quarter to minimize delays in case of a failed attempt.

Electronics and Photonics:

For students with an Electronics and photonics emphasis, the examination is always oral. As a point of departure for the exam, students are required to prepare a 20-minute oral PowerPoint presentation on a topic of their choosing. The topic presumably should relate to an area of concentration that the student has already chosen by his or her course selections. Prior approval of the topic by the Exam Committee Chair must be obtained.

Electronics and Photonics students opting to take the oral comprehensive exam are allowed only two chances to pass the exam.

A.4. Changing from M.S.-only to the M.S./Ph.D. Program

Students who are already involved in the M.S. program at UCSB and who wish to continue on for a doctorate should discuss their prospects with their faculty advisor and other professors. If, after receiving advice and encouragement, a student wishes to apply for the Ph.D. program, they must start and complete a new online graduate application via the Graduate Division's website. This application is usually done after passing the Ph.D. Screening Exam (see Section B.3).

Current students who apply and are accepted into the doctoral program will be fully eligible for central recruitment funding including the International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship (IDRF) if they apply and are admitted. If admitted, students will be given a new start quarter for the doctoral degree objective. This means that the degree clock starts anew.

B. THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Graduate Division Requirements

Residency	Six or more academic quarters in which the student completes 8 units or more of coursework. All courses (including lower division courses and courses outside the department) count toward residency. Three consecutive quarters of residency must be completed in regular session (excluding summer session) before Advancement to Candidacy. Only the Graduate Council may grant exceptions to this rule.
Form	A Committee Nomination Form I and Conflict of Interest Disclosure is required to establish a doctoral dissertation committee with the Graduate Division. This form is completed online via the Committee Create Workflow in GradPoint; see here for instructions. University committee required are located with Graduate Division website's here .
GPA	3.0 (B) or more on all courses taken
Fee	Student must be registered during the quarter in which the degree is awarded or file a filing fee leave of absence petition and pay a filing fee (see Section B.7).

ECE Requirements

Foreign Language	There is no foreign language requirement in ECE for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.
Course Load	<p>Enrolled in a minimum of 12 units per quarter. All courses (including lower division courses and courses outside the department) count toward this requirement.</p> <p>How many courses to take in order to meet this requirement depends on a variety of factors, including the extent to which one must work for financial support, fluency in English, the quality of preparation, and the relative difficulty of the courses selected. In addition to formal coursework, the following courses may be advisable to meet this requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project and research courses (ECE 596) • TAs may register for ECE 502 if assigned an ECE TAship • Students studying for the Ph.D. Screening Exam may register for ECE 597 • Students doing dissertation research and writing may register for ECE 599 • Courses numbered 595 only carry one unit applicable to this requirement
Coursework	<p>For all students with M.S. degrees entering the Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) Ph.D. program with an emphasis in Computer Engineering during Fall 2010 or later or for those with an emphasis in Communication and Signal Processing (CSP) during Fall 2018 or later, 24-units (6 courses) of graduate engineering or science courses taken at UCSB are required. For courses to count toward this requirement, a grade of B+ or better must be attained and ECE 295, 502, 595, 597, 599 courses cannot count towards the 24-unit (6 courses) requirement.</p> <p>Doctoral students must have completed at least 72.0 units of coursework (this may include ECE 596), but doctoral students are expected to take all available courses in their area of interest that the faculty deem relevant to their programs. In addition, they are expected to take other courses for breadth.</p>
EMS (English for Multilingual Students)	Linguistics courses passed for those students who were placed in such courses as a result of taking the English Language Placement Exam (ELPE). See Section I for details.
Screening Exam	<p>Ph.D. Screening Exam passed. A GPA of 3.3 is required to take the Screening Exam. Failure to have the 3.3 GPA at the time the student is required to take the Screening Exam means an automatic fail for the first attempt.</p> <p>A student has two attempts to pass the Screening Exam. If a student fails</p>

	<p>the second time, then they must leave the program.</p> <p>See Section B.3 for screening exam policy information.</p>
Qualifying Exam	<p>Ph.D. Qualifying Exam passed and consequent advancement to candidacy.</p> <p>See Section B.4 for information about qualifying exam policy and advancement to candidacy.</p>
Defense Exam	<p>Defense of Dissertation Exam (public seminar) passed.</p> <p>See Section B.5 for information on the dissertation defense exam.</p>
Dissertation	<p>Final submission of the approved dissertation.</p>

B.1 Ph.D. Dissertation Committee

Most of the technical guidance for the student in the Ph.D. program will come from the faculty advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee Chair. After passing the Screening Exam, the student, in consultation with his/her faculty advisor, will select a faculty member who will serve as Doctoral Dissertation Committee Chair. The faculty advisor and the Doctoral Dissertation Committee Chair are often the same faculty member. Details of the individual program are set by agreement between the student and the faculty advisor or Doctoral Dissertation Committee.

The student is responsible for selecting a faculty member who will agree to serve as Chair of the Doctoral Dissertation Committee. The Chair of the Dissertation Committee and the student confer on the selection of the remaining members.

The Chair of the Dissertation Committee is responsible for monitoring the student's progress through the program and for the supervision of the dissertation research. The Dissertation Committee should be formed at any time after passing the Screening Exam. The required forms are obtained in the ECE Graduate Student Office.

A Ph.D. Dissertation Committee shall consist of no fewer than four members, which should be faculty in the same or different departments at UCSB or at another university. In rare cases, a highly qualified individual from industry can be a committee member. In such cases, a student must submit a detailed technical biography or CV of the outside member for review by both the Department Vice Chair and Chair. However, no fewer than three committee members shall be ECE ladder faculty (those who hold the title of either Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, LPSOE and LSOE or Teaching Professor) with part- or full-time or affiliated appointments in ECE. The Chair and at least one other member of the ECE faculty shall be from the student's area of research as defined by the Screening Exam: CE, CCSP, or EP; whereas at least one committee member shall be from outside this area. A qualified individual from outside UCSB will always count as outside the major area. Exceptions to these rules regarding committee composition require the approval of the ECE Graduate Advisor. Also note that LPSOE and LSOE and Teaching Professors cannot serve a sole committee chair but may serve as co-chair.

Emeriti faculty may serve as members of Ph.D. Dissertation Committees but will not serve as chairs of Ph.D. Dissertation Committees except under particularly compelling circumstances. The appointment of an emeritus faculty member as chair requires not only departmental approval but also approval by the Graduate Council. Emeriti faculty will be counted the same as they were

counted before becoming emeriti.

Graduate Division requires the Ph.D. Form I, which lists a student's committee along with the Conflict of Interest (COI) Form. These forms must be submitted prior to the qualifying exam form (Ph.D. Form II).

The Dissertation Committee may be restructured at any time with the approval of the Department Chair and the Dean of the Graduate Division. Paperwork for a change in committee must then be filed with the Graduate Division via the ECE Graduate Student Office.

B.2 Study Plan

It is expected that a student in the Ph.D. program will pursue a program of study providing: (1) depth of knowledge in a technical specialty area; and (2) breadth of knowledge in two or more technical areas distinct from, but supportive of, the technical specialty area. The breadth of knowledge should involve concepts different from those of the specialty area. Students will normally demonstrate substantial satisfaction of depth and breadth requirements through the successful completion of regular coursework.

Evaluation of the depth and breadth of a student's knowledge is made by the Doctoral Dissertation Committee. The criteria used in this evaluation should refer to levels of achievement and technical maturity rather than to a fixed numbers of courses completed. Normally, doctoral students are expected to take all available ECE graduate courses in their area of interest, which are deemed relevant to their programs, as well as courses outside their area for breadth.

Approved courses in other departments are encouraged in the interest of greater breadth. It is also anticipated that it will be necessary or desirable for many students to complete 100-series courses, both for added breadth and as preparation for more advanced courses. The breadth requirement is normally considered met when the student successfully completes a single graduate course sequence (three courses) in each of two separate areas outside the specialty area.

For all students with M.S. degrees entering the Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) Ph.D. program with an emphasis in Computer Engineering during Fall 2010 or later or for those with an emphasis in Communication and Signal Processing during Fall 2018 or later, 24-units (6 courses) of graduate engineering or science courses taken at UCSB are required as part of the 72-unit Ph.D. graduation requirement FOR A PHD IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING OR IN COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL PROCESSING. For courses to count toward this requirement, a grade of B or better must be attained.

B.3 Ph.D. Screening Exam

The purpose of the Ph.D. Screening Examination is to screen candidates for continuation in the doctoral program. This exam is not required for admission to the Ph.D. program; however, to remain in the Ph.D. program, all students are required to pass the exam.

Students should begin planning for this exam immediately after entering the program. Rules for taking the exam are as follows:

- (1) must pass screening exam by the end of the second year of matriculation as a graduate student except for those in Signal Processing and Communications (see CSP section about exam below) and Electronics and Photonics (see EP section about the exam below). If a student doesn't take the exam by the applicable deadline, it counts as a failed attempt.

(2) must have a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.3 to qualify to take the exam. Students having a GPA of less than 3.3 at the time that they are required to take the exam shall be considered to have failed the exam. This failure will be counted as one of their allowed attempts at the exam.

Students are allowed two attempts at passing the Exam.

For those who are in the MS/Ph.D. program, the Ph.D. screening exam may be used in lieu of the MS comprehensive exam.

B.4 Qualifying Exam

The Qualifying Exam provides the Doctoral Dissertation Committee with a basis for student evaluation and guidance and the student with an opportunity to review, organize, and demonstrate his/her knowledge. It is understood that upon passing the Qualifying Examination, the student has presented an approved dissertation research proposal and has demonstrated substantial readiness to undertake the research.

The Qualifying Exam is oral with the focus on the dissertation problem and is administered by the student's Doctoral Committee. It will include considerable depth in the student's area of specialization, as required for a successful completion of the dissertation. The student confers with committee members to set up the date/time of the exam. The necessary forms are available in the ECE Graduate Student Office and should be completed after passing the Exam. More information about paperwork is available on the ECE website under PHD FAQs.

While the Qualifying Exam is normally taken one to two years following the passing of the Screening Examination, students admitted to the Ph.D. or M.S./Ph.D. degree programs have at most **four** years from first matriculation to take the exam and advance to doctoral candidacy. If they do not advance within those four years, they should meet with their research advisor to complete a plan and a timetable for advancement. Students may be placed on academic probation if they do not make sufficient progress towards their degree (see **Section L**). Not advancing to Ph.D. candidacy by the fourth year of study will affect one's employment as a GSR, a TA or a Reader.

The paperwork that Graduate Division requires from us (Ph.D. Form II) must have all committee signatures and must also have the signature of the Department Graduate Advisor. The Department Graduate Advisor certifies that a student has completed all required coursework and departmental milestones. This also includes completing MS degree requirements for those pursuing the MS/Ph.D. degree objective.

Advancement to Candidacy

The Academic Senate requires the Qualifying Exam for advancement to candidacy. Upon spending three consecutive quarters in residence on the campus and passing the Qualifying Exam, a student is eligible for advancement to candidacy. Advancement to Candidacy fee of \$50 as of this writing will be assessed by Graduate Division on the student's BARC account.

At this point, the student becomes eligible to apply for faculty library privileges, to apply for a travel grant for presentations of papers or posters at conferences, and to apply for dissertation fellowships.

After advancing to doctoral candidacy, a student's class level changes to P2 the next registered

quarter and non-resident tuition is waived for nine registered quarters (if applicable).

Library Privileges

Students who have passed the Qualifying Examination are eligible for faculty borrowing privileges in the Davidson Library.

Tuition Reduction

Effective Fall 2006, the quarterly nonresident tuition fee is reduced by 100% for graduate doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy. Eligibility for the reduced nonresident tuition is measured in calendar years, and begins with the first academic quarter following advancement to candidacy. Leave of absence and unregistered quarters will not extend a student's eligibility. A student who continues to be enrolled or who re-enrolls three calendar years after advancing to candidacy will be charged the full nonresident rate in effect at the time.

As a P2 student, one is eligible for different types of financial support including Graduate Division Fellowships, teaching assistantships, department fellowships, etc. A student may only be in this P2 status for 9 registered quarters starting the quarter following the date of advancement. If the nine registered quarters are up and the student remains in the graduate program, s/he then gets classified as a P3 student. A P3 student becomes ineligible for some financial support including fellowships and will require special permission from the Graduate Division for any student appointments held.

B.5 Dissertation

The dissertation is written on a subject chosen by the candidate that is related to an area of study in ECE. It must be of such nature as to enable the student to demonstrate his/her ability to carry out independent investigation and study.

The candidate in a public presentation will defend the dissertation before the Doctoral Committee approves it. After approval, the dissertation must be formatted according to the rules set forth at the following website: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic-services/filing>.

Defense of Dissertation Examination

For the Defense of Dissertation, the candidate must defend his/her work before the Doctoral Dissertation Committee and give a public seminar presentation. Ordinarily, the public presentation is considered part of the Examination. The Dissertation Committee will meet with the student after the Examination to discuss any areas that need revision or additional work.

The student must contact the Central Administration Office (CAO), Harold Frank Hall I, Room 4155 via the "[Events Submission](#)" on the ECE home page, a minimum of **one week in advance**, in order to guarantee the distribution of a flyer to announce the defense. You also need to forward an email to events@ece.ucsb.edu from your committee chair to confirm your defense is going forward so the announcement can be published. The student should also notify the ECE Graduate Student Office via email of any changes to your committee. After passing the defense, the student then emails the ECE Graduate Student Office for the defense paperwork to be routed to the student and the committee. Students must be cognizant of the filing deadlines and hold their defense well in advance of the filing deadline, to ensure adequate time for completion of required paperwork and e-filing of the dissertation. Failure to do so may result in the student needing to enroll another quarter and pay additional tuition/fee costs to allow for the degree conferral.

IMPORTANT- The student must provide at least the first draft of the dissertation to all dissertation committee members to allow them time to go over the dissertation at least 10 business days prior to the defense date. In exceptional cases, this time can be reduced with the consent of the dissertation committee, but a dissertation draft must be available before the defense.

B.6. Time Limit to Earn Doctor of Philosophy Degree/Normative Time

Except as authorized by the Graduate Council, each student in a doctoral program must satisfy all requirements for the Ph.D. within six calendar years after s/he has been admitted to graduate study at UCSB. This includes leaves of absence and withdrawal from the University to complete the dissertation. The student may petition for an extension of time to degree. However, the "normative time" established by the ECE Department to complete a doctoral degree is six years, although many students require less time. Normative time is the number of years considered to be reasonable by the faculty of a department for completion of a doctorate by a full-time student in that program.

If a student who was originally in the terminal MS degree program and then applies for the doctoral program, the normative time clock starts anew with the first quarter in the doctoral degree program.

When students take an approved leave of absence for medical, family emergency, or pregnancy/parenting reasons, Graduate Division will extend the student's normative time by one quarter at a time up to a maximum of three quarters of leave. More leaves or periods of lapsed status (status of neither being on an official leave of absence nor being registered as a student) will not stop the normative time clock; the deadline stands. Quarters of Research Leave and the Filing Fee Quarter of Leave count toward expiration of a student's normative time clock.

B.7. Leaving from the University Before Completion of the Dissertation

A student who has fulfilled the residency requirement and has completed all research requirements, course requirements (including Linguistics classes in which student was placed according to the ELPE or TA Language Evaluations) and examinations for the Ph.D. (with the exception of the Defense-of- Dissertation Exam and submission of the dissertation) may take an official filing fee leave of absence from the University during the quarter in which s/he will file his/her dissertation.

A student must have been registered the quarter immediately preceding the leave quarter. Check with the ECE Student Office for the process. As of this writing, there's a \$20 petition fee, which will be charged to the student's BARC account when Graduate Division processes the petition. By taking a filing fee leave of absence, one's student status is still protected without paying full fees for the quarter. To file a dissertation, a student must pay fees either through normal registration or by paying a filing fee (currently approximately \$200) at the Cashier's Office (1212 SAASB) during the quarter s/he files his/her dissertation with the Graduate Division. The filing fee will be assessed by the Graduate Division when they process the filed dissertation. The student on official leave of absence may continue to use University facilities, such as the Library, the Student Health Center, and laboratories. If a student fails to file his/her dissertation on the quarter of filing fee leave of absence, s/he must register in subsequent quarters until the dissertation is filed. A student on filing fee leave may not be employed in any student titles.

IV. COURSE CREDITS

C. APPROVAL OF UNDERGRADUATE COURSES FOR GRADUATE CREDIT

Lower division undergraduate courses (< 100) cannot be used for credit towards unit requirements for a degree and, if taken, are not counted in the student's GPA. Most 100-series or upper-division Electrical & Computer Engineering elective courses are available for graduate credit. However, any course in the 100-series that is a requirement for the undergraduate degree in either Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering (ECE 130A/B, 134, 139, 152A, 153A/B, 154A, CMPSC 130A, ENGR 101 and PSTAT 120A) may not be taken for graduate credit. Engineering Science courses and all courses in the Technology Management Program (TMP) also will not be counted towards graduate degree requirements.

IMPORTANT: After taking a particular course, students may not get credit for prerequisites to that course. For example, if ECE 158 is the prerequisite for ECE 258, a student who has already taken ECE 258 in winter 2020 may not get credit for ECE 158 taken the following fall 2020 towards the MS degree requirement. If a course is cross-listed, a student cannot receive duplicate credit for: 1) taking both the undergraduate and graduate version of the course, or 2) taking an ECE course and taking the same cross-listed course in an outside department.

D. APPROVAL FOR COURSES OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENTS OF ECE & CS

A student who wishes to take courses outside ECE and CS for graduate credit should consult with their faculty advisor and the ECE Graduate Student Office to be sure that the course/s selected is acceptable to the Department and to the Graduate Division. This should be done before registration.

Many upper-division and/or graduate courses in the Departments of Mathematics, Statistics and Applied Probability, Physics, and other branches of Engineering and selected courses in other departments are acceptable when they are shown to have relevance to a student's program.

E. TRANSFER OF CREDIT

With approval from the ECE Graduate Advisor and the Graduate Division, up to:

- 8 quarter units of credit for courses completed with a minimum grade of "B" from an accredited college or university other than a University of California campus, or
- 12 quarter units of credit for courses completed with a minimum grade of "B" from another UC campus may be transferred toward the M.S. degree at UCSB. These courses will be transferred at their equivalent unit value.

One-third of the residency required for the M.S. degree (one academic quarter) may also be transferred from another UC campus.

The following limitations apply:

- The course must not have already been used at the previous institution or any other institution as credit/s towards a degree that has already been awarded.
- The course must have been taken while registered in a graduate degree program that was not finished. No credit will be allowed for any course taken as an undergraduate student or while in a non-degree status.
- Courses taken in Summer Session cannot apply toward a graduate degree unless the student has been admitted to graduate standing prior to enrollment in the Summer

Session.

- For credit transfer, the student must have been in graduate standing at UCSB for at least one quarter and must have maintained a 3.0 GPA.

For credit transfer petitions, contact the ECE Graduate Student Office. An official transcript must accompany the petition. If the student's transcript does not show his/her graduate status, s/he must have a letter sent from the Registrar of the other school to the Graduate Division at UCSB which gives his/her status at the time of taking the courses for which credits are to be transferred.

Admitted students who had formally applied to UCSB at the time they completed coursework through UCSB Extension's Open University Program (formerly Concurrent Enrollment) may transfer up to 12 units to their graduate transcript contingent upon departmental and Graduate Division approval. UCSB Extension's Open Enrollment courses taken Fall 2000 and after will be included in the UCSB GPA if the department and Graduate Division accepts and applies the courses towards the degree. **Units taken through Open University Program prior to completing an application for graduate school cannot be transferred.**

Education Abroad Program (EAP) reciprocity students who are subsequently admitted to a master's and/or doctoral degree program can transfer up to 12 units taken at UCSB while in non-degree EAP status. Under limited circumstances, one quarter of UCSB residency can be granted toward their graduate degree.

F. INTERCAMPUS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

A graduate student in good standing who has completed at least one year of graduate study at UCSB who is on good standing, who has a cumulative GPA above 3.00, and who wishes to study temporarily at another UC campus may apply for the Intercampus Exchange Program for Graduate Students (IEPGS).

The student must obtain the approval of the Graduate Advisor, the Chair of the host Department, and the Graduate Deans on both campuses. This program enables the student to maintain academic residence at UCSB without being physically present.

Approval is given only when there is an excellent reason for making the request, and the student is in good academic standing. Examples of "excellent reasons" are to take a specific course or courses not offered at UCSB or to study under the guidance of a specialist in the student's field. Separate applications are required for each quarter and must be filed with the UCSB Graduate Division at least six weeks before the beginning of the quarter in which the student wishes to take advantage of this privilege. The student pays fees at UCSB and registers at UCSB and at the host campus. The ECE Graduate Student Office will help in filing the UCSB forms. The student should obtain a class schedule from the host campus in order to learn his/her registration procedures and deadlines.

Further information about the Intercampus Exchange Program can be obtained in the following website: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/forms/intercamp-ed-abroad-and-cross>.

G. "INCOMPLETE" GRADES

An "I" ("Incomplete") grade may be placed on a student's record only with a completed "Request for an Incomplete Grade" form. The form must indicate the reason for assigning the "I" grade, the student's grade at that point, the nature of the coursework to be completed, the percentage of the

final grade to be based on that work, and the deadline for submitting the work. The form must be approved and signed by the instructor and must be filed with the Registrar's Office. There is a \$5 processing fee for each form filed and will be billed to the student's BARC account. In the absence of the form, an "NR" or "NG" for no grade will be recorded for the course taken. The deadline for submission of the Incomplete petition is the last day of each quarter.

The work for the course must be completed and the "I" grade removed by the end of the next full quarter (or by an earlier date if specified on the form), whether or not the student is registered and whether or not the course is offered. If the work is not completed by the deadline or its authorized extension, the "I" will be changed automatically to an "F" or "U," as appropriate. The same case applies if a course had an "NG" or "NR" recorded originally, it will automatically turn into an "F" or "U" if an instructor doesn't submit a grade by the end of the following quarter.

A student may not repeat a course in which an "I" was assigned and therefore may not register for the course a second time in order to remove an "I". Unexpired "I" grades are not included in the computation of the student's grade point average at the end of the quarter.

The Instructor of the course or the Chair of the Department in which the course was offered has authority to extend the deadline for completion of "I" grades in the event of unusual circumstances.

V. GENERAL ACADEMIC PROCEDURES

H. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Students register for classes or via the GOLD system (Gaucho On-Line Data). Complete instructions are available on GOLD. If there are any questions about course offerings, please consult with the ECE Graduate Student Office.

Please note that in the case of a graduate student wanting to register for an undergraduate course, registration priority will always be given to undergraduates before a graduate student will be allowed in said undergraduate ECE course. In many cases, if not all cases, a graduate student must obtain an add code for the undergraduate class in order to register for it.

It is important that students enroll on time. If students foresee a problem, they should contact the ECE Graduate Student Office for help.

Students pay fees at the Cashier's Office (1212 SAASB). It is the student's responsibility to register in a timely manner or else risk incurring a penalty of \$50 for late registration. Consult GOLD to find out your pass time schedule for registration and for registration deadlines.

I. INTERNSHIP IN INDUSTRY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students are allowed to work in an internship in industry under the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) program overseen by the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS). During the academic year, CPT can only be part-time (i.e. twenty hours per week maximum). During the summer, CPT can be full-time. To be on CPT, an international student must register for at least one unit of ECE 493 (Internship in Industry) during the term of his/her internship. So, summer internships require registration and therefore the payment of additional fees.

To be eligible for CPT, international students must have been registered and physically present in the United States for at least three quarters.

There is a CPT form that OISS requires and the ECE Student Office also requires a form for registering for ECE 493 signed by an ECE faculty who is willing to have the student register for the units. OISS also requires a letter from the ECE 493 instructor. Ask the Graduate Student Office for help, if needed.

J. LINGUISTICS REQUIREMENT

It is a University requirement, enforced by the ECE Department, that international students for whom English is not the native language attain proficiency in English before a degree will be awarded.

International students for whom English is not the native language are required to take an English Language Placement Examination (ELPE) before the beginning of a quarter. International students who attended a four-year undergraduate foreign institution that offered English medium classes only are exempt from taking the English Language Placement Exam (ELPE). The results of the examination are used to place students in appropriate language classes or to exempt them from taking more English classes. Although requirements are normally satisfied in three quarters or less, some students are required to continue in the program for additional quarters. The ECE Department will require that such students enroll in the indicated course/s each quarter until exempted from further studies.

Students receiving Linguistics course placements, either through the ELPE or the TA Language Evaluation, are recommended to complete these placements at the earliest possible time. Students who have not completed Linguistics placements will be given lower priority in TA assignments in subsequent years. A student may not file a petition for a Filing Fee Leave of Absence status if they have not completed all Linguistics placement courses.

WRIT 109ST may be used as a substitute for the Linguistics written language placement as long as it is not also used to satisfy another requirement. Linguistics (LING) and Writing (WRIT) courses cannot count towards MS and/or PhD degree coursework.

K. ATTENDANCE AT COLLOQUIA AND SEMINARS

The Department presents colloquia and seminars on technical subjects of current interest at least once a week. The speakers at these seminars are usually distinguished guests from other academic institutions or industrial research organizations, faculty, or advanced graduate students. ECE recognizes the great value of such presentations to a professional engineering education and expects the attendance of its graduate students at seminars for which the topic is relevant to the student's technical area.

L. DEPARTMENT POLICY ON PROBATION/DISMISSAL

The policy for academic probation or dismissal is as follows:

- probation is automatic for a student falling below the 3.0 GPA level for the first time
- continued probation is recommended for a student who remains below 3.0 after one quarter if reasonable progress toward academic recovery has been demonstrated
- dismissal is recommended for a student who fails to reach the 3.0 level after two consecutive quarters on probation.

ECE Department recommendations are based on an appraisal of the student's prospects for recovering to the 3.0 cumulative GPA level. The department policy is less tolerant in the case of a student who, having been on probation and having recovered to a cumulative GPA level of 3.0, subsequently falls below that level.

The Department may recommend that the Graduate Division place a student on academic probation for any of the following reasons:

- excessive units of unfinished coursework (12 or more units)
- failure to meet the time limits for advancement to candidacy (4 years)
- failure to meet the time limits for the completion of the degree (4 years for M.S.; 6 years for Ph.D.)
- failure to meet standards of scholarship, which may include (but is not limited to):
- failing the M.S. comprehensive exam
- failing the Ph.D. screening exam
- inability for forming an M.S. or Ph.D. committee
- failing the Ph.D. qualifying examination
- failing to register for the required 12 units per quarter.

Should any of the reasons listed above remain valid for subsequent quarters, continued probation will be recommended in these subsequent quarters for students making tangible progress toward academic recovery; otherwise, dismissal will be recommended.

M. IN-ABSENTIA REGISTRATION

Graduate students whose research or study requires them to be outside of the local campus region for the duration of a quarter or longer, may apply for In-Absentia registration, which ensures that students maintain continuous enrollment even while engaged in study away from campus. In- Absentia registration decreases the combined registration, educational and campus fees components by 85%. Student will still be responsible for full payment of non-resident tuition and graduate student health insurance when applicable. **Counties within the local campus region and not eligible for in-absentia registration are: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura.**

The following are the In Absentia eligibility and registration requirements established by the University of California Office of the President:

In Absentia Registration eligibility criteria (established by UC Office of the President):

Students may apply for In Absentia registration under the following circumstances:

- Doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy by the time the *in absentia* status would begin.
- Master's and graduate professional students who have completed at least one year of coursework by the time in absentia status would begin.
- Students who seek in absentia registration beyond the initial term must reapply for each subsequent term.

The Graduate Dean may grant *In Absentia* registration status for:

- Up to two years for doctoral students, with the second year requiring special approval by the Graduate Dean.
- Up to one year for master's and professional students.
-

Students shall observe the following requirements while enrolled *In Absentia*:

- Enroll full-time at their UC campus of origin for the duration of their *in absentia* registration.
- Enroll in a UC doctoral, master's, or graduate professional program for the duration of their *in absentia* registration.

Students shall be assessed the following fees while registered *in absentia*:

- 15 percent of the combined education, registration, and campus fees. This reduced fee assessment reflects that *in absentia* students have less access to UC resources than do other UC students, but continue to utilize some level of advising and other University resources to facilitate timely academic progress toward degree completion.
- The full health insurance fee with the UC campus of origin. Students registered in *absentia* will have access to student health centers and all other benefits associated with their student health insurance plan.
- Nonresident tuition, if applicable.

Students will be eligible to apply for and receive University fellowships and research assistantships, but not eligible for any other student academic appointments during the *in absentia* period.

Students may download the *in absentia* petition from the Graduate Division website at: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/forms/absentia>. There is no fee to process an *in absentia* petition.

N. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A student may petition to be granted a personal leave of absence. Please refer to the following website for the policy on leaves of absence: <https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/personal-leave-absence>.

International students are encouraged to talk with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) before applying for leaves to avoid subsequent visa problems. A student may not hold a University fellowship, Teaching Assistantship, or Graduate Student Researcher position, etc. while on leave.

O. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

ECE and the University welcome the participation of interested students in policy and other matters. The University has a Graduate Students Association (GSA). Its purposes are disseminating of information concerning graduate student affairs, providing a student voice in administrative committees on campus, and promoting the general welfare of the students within each department. If you wish to get involved, please go to their website at <https://gsa.ucsb.edu/>. The GSA Office is located at 2502 University Center, on the 2nd floor above the Multicultural Center Building.

Student professional organizations and honor societies also are consulted by the departmental administration regarding matters of student interest. These organizations include student branches of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery), the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, Los Ingenieros, Eta Kappa Nu, and Tau Beta Pi.

P. COMMENCEMENT/DIPLOMA

Commencement ceremonies are held once per year in June. Students who officially finished their graduate programs in December, March, or June, or who will finish in summer may attend the ceremony in June. This is a ceremony only; no diplomas are presented.

The diploma will be mailed to the student approximately three to four months after the date of graduation and automatically mailed to the “diploma address” on record. One should update the diploma address on GOLD. The Registrar’s Office is currently working on digital diplomas.

VI. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Q. FELLOWSHIPS

Various graduate fellowships are available to students in ECE. The Department and the Graduate Division administer some; others are administered directly by the sponsoring agencies. Some are merit-based and are awarded to the applicants with the best academic records or greatest promise; others are reserved for members of minority groups, students in particular technical specialties, or students with particular career goals.

Fellowships administered by the University are usually awarded to beginning graduate students. However, continuing graduate students have, on occasion, received such awards. Fellowship applications are normally filed in the winter quarter for the following academic year. Check the following Graduate Division website for fellowship opportunities and applications:

<https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/fellowships>.

The fellowships awarded directly by the sponsoring agencies are usually publicized in professional journals and on websites of said agencies. Sometimes they do not come to the attention of many eligible candidates. As a result, students who would not fare well in the competition for university awarded fellowships could very well receive one of these fellowship awards. Notices regarding such fellowships received by the ECE Graduate Student Office will be sent via e-mail. All outstanding graduate students are encouraged to apply for such fellowships, if eligible.

International students who start the MS/PHD or PHD program in Fall 2015 or later are eligible for a new fellowship program called the IDRF (International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship). The IDRF will pay the non-resident tuition for all international MS/PHD or PHD students beyond their first year of residency who have not yet advanced to doctoral candidacy.

This relatively new fellowship commences on the student’s fourth quarter of enrollment (Fall 2022 for those entering Fall 2021) and continues until the student has advanced to doctoral candidacy, provided the student remains within the official time-to-advancement approved by the Graduate Council. For ECE, that means passing the qualifying exam and advancing to doctoral candidacy within 4 years from the start of matriculation.

The IDRF will relieve research grants of the need to pay the non-resident tuition for international doctoral students hired as Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) who are covered under this fellowship program.

R. TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Department awards approximately 50 teaching assistantships per quarter. Most are 20- hour

per week appointments. Curriculum needs, student's academic record and past evaluations, if applicable, are considered in making TA awards. However, other qualifications, such as English language skills, will also be taken into consideration. The Vice Chair makes the appointments. The majority of these go to incoming graduate students. Normally, incoming students receive a nine-month award; continuing students receive one-quarter awards.

All students appointed for 25% time (10 hours per week) or more would have their mandatory student health insurance paid and a partial fee offset. Some teaching assistantships are awarded along with a fellowship payment for tuition and/or fees. Applications for Teaching Assistantships are sent out on a quarterly basis via an email call sent out to the ECE graduate student mailing list. For more information, see the ECE Teaching Assistant's Handbook. This is available also in Trailer 697, Room 101.

In addition to the ECE TA Handbook, the Office of Instructional Development (OID) has published information for TAs on their website: <https://id.ucsb.edu/teaching/ta-training/new-tas>.

The Department has a policy requiring TAs to register for a minimum of 12 units during any quarter that the student is a TA.

S. P3 STATUS

Students on P3 status are ineligible for teaching assistantships, reader positions and fellowships. See **Section B.4** for P3 status definition.

T. GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER (GSR) POSITIONS

Enrolled graduate students may seek employment as GSRs. GSRs are hired directly by professors who hold research contracts or grants. These appointments are not awarded or administered through the ECE Student Office.

Students interested in such positions must talk directly to faculty having research interests similar to theirs. The faculty advisor may be a good source of information regarding which professors may currently hold contracts or grants in the student's research area. There are many more of these positions available than teaching assistantships and fellowships. However, most faculty will not consider hiring a student who has not yet passed the Ph.D. Screening Examination or who has not carried a course load of 12 or more units per quarter with excellent grades. Therefore, students interested in these positions should take the Screening Examination early and establish a strong academic record in the ECE program.

The University of California, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, University programs and activities, including but not limited to academic admissions, financial aid, educational services, and employment.

The University of California, in compliance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, does not discriminate in employment on the basis of age; nor does the University discriminate against any employees or applicants for employment because they are disabled veterans or veterans of the Vietnam era. Inquiries regarding the University's equal opportunity policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator at 805-893-2701.

U. TUITION AND FEE FELLOWSHIPS

ECE is allotted a "block" grant, which may be used to pay tuition and/or fees for some students each year. These are merit-based awards. New doctoral students receive top priority for these awards, although some awards may be given to new M.S. students and continuing doctoral students in their second year.

Second-year domestic out-of-state students are expected to have achieved California resident status for tuition purposes (see **Section Y**). Continuing doctoral students are expected to obtain sufficient support through GSR appointments: Fees and tuition for all GSRs employed 35% time or more are covered by the supervising professor's research grant or contract.

International students who start the MS/PHD or PHD program in Fall 2015 or later are eligible for a new fellowship program called the IDRf (International Doctoral Recruitment Fellowship). The IDRf will pay the non-resident tuition for all international MS/PHD or PHD students beyond their first year of residency who have not yet advanced to doctoral candidacy.

This new fellowship commences on the student's fourth quarter of enrollment (Fall 2022 for those entering Fall 2021) and continues until the student has advanced to doctoral candidacy, provided the student remains within the official time-to-advancement approved by the Graduate Council. For ECE, that means passing the qualifying exam and advancing to doctoral candidacy within 4 years from the start of matriculation.

The IDRf will relieve research grants of the need to pay the non-resident tuition for international doctoral students hired as Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) who are covered under this fellowship program.

V. FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION FOR NONIMMIGRANT FOREIGN STUDENTS

V.1 President's Work-Study

This program enables international students to compete for on-campus jobs just like American students who are in the Work-Study Program. If a student receives a President's Work-Study award, which is managed by OISS, any department that hires him/her only has to pay 40% of your salary. The UC Office of the President pays the other 60%. This makes the student a more attractive job candidate since departments do not have to use as much of their annual budget to support your position. One can receive up to \$1,100 for each quarter that one is enrolled from the President's Work-Study award. A student can use the maximum amount of the award in one quarter or spread it out over the course of the year.

For more information, please contact OISS.

V.2 Part-Time Employment

Graduate non-immigrant international students are allowed to hold part-time on-campus academic titles such as Teaching Assistant, Reader, Graduate Student Researcher, etc. However, off-campus part-time jobs require documented authorization from the U.S. Immigration or OISS. During the academic quarters, on-campus employment is limited to 50% time (20 hours per week), although simultaneous off-campus employment at 50% time

may also be allowable with approval from the department and OISS.

W. RESEARCH TRAVEL FUNDS FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The Academic Senate has a small travel fund for the use of graduate students who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy. Grants are made to doctoral students who are invited to present papers or results of research at major professional meetings and conferences. Applications for the travel grant are available at the following website: <https://senate.ucsb.edu/grants/doctoral-student-travel/>.

X. FILING FEE PAYMENT FOR GRADUATION IN LIEU OF ENROLLMENT

It is possible for a candidate for a M.S. or Ph.D. degree to pay a filing fee (currently approximately \$200) in his/her final quarter in lieu of the regular registration fees. Only a candidate who has satisfied residency and all other requirements for the degree except passing the Master's Comprehensive Examination and filing the Master's thesis or filing the doctoral dissertation may use this fee alternative. The filing fee is used in lieu of full fees and/or tuition. This only applies to those students who have been approved for a Filing Fee Leave of Absence.

A student taking a filing fee leave of absence must be registered the quarter immediately preceding the leave quarter. Spring quarter is the quarter immediately preceding fall quarter. If a student is not registered in Spring quarter and wishes to take a filing fee leave in Fall quarter, said student must then register for the Summer for 4 units immediately preceding the Fall quarter. Students who have not completed Linguistics placements are not eligible for Filing Fee leave, as they are not considered to have completed their course requirements.

The fee will be assessed on the student's BARC account by the Graduate Division after they've cleared a student for the final degree.

If a student fails to file the thesis or dissertation or pass the comprehensive exam on the quarter that they are on filing fee leave, they must subsequently register the quarter the final degree requirements are met. Continuous registration requirements also take effect. In cases where students who were originally California residents and have lived out-of-state, it might be possible to be assessed nonresident tuition once they re-register.

Y. ESTABLISHING CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY

Out-of-state domestic graduate students whose duration of study at UCSB will exceed one year are advised to take the necessary steps to establish California residency (for determining assessment of nonresident tuition) immediately upon the first quarter of matriculation. The campus Residency Deputy is the person to contact for more information about establishing California residency. The Residency Deputy may be reached at Residency@sa.ucsb.edu. More information about establishing residency is available via the following website: <https://registrar.sa.ucsb.edu/fees-residency/residency>.