

Curriculum Requirement For Current Graduate Students (entered before Fall 07) in Transition to Credit-Based Curriculum

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

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I. Special Variable Credit Guided Study Courses to Help You Earn Exactly 30 Credits (for MS students)

For students who entered before Fall 07, depending on how many credits you have completed, the remaining number of credits may not be multiples of 3 credits. If you wish to take exactly 30 credits upon graduation, you can choose to take a specially designed variable credit course which can be registered in multiples of 0.5 credits. Please note that you should plan to complete the variable credit course before Fall 2009, preferably sooner, as the university plans to discontinue the offering of such courses by that time.

The following conversion table shows how many courses (full, 3 credit courses, plus remaining variable credits) a student would have to take to complete the MS degree as a function of the number of units completed until the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester.

At Start of Fall 2007					
Full (3-Unit) Courses Completed	Current Units Completed	Current Units Remaining	New Credits Remaining	Full (3-Credit) Courses Remaining	Variable Credit Remaining
0	0	36	30.0	10	0.0
1	3	33	27.5	9	0.5
2	6	30	25.0	8	1.0
3	9	27	22.5	7	1.5
4	12	24	20.0	6	2.0
5	15	21	17.5	5	2.5
6	18	18	15.0	5	0.0
7	21	15	12.5	4	0.5
8	24	12	10.0	3	1.0
9	27	9	7.5	2	1.5
10	30	6	5.0	1	2.0
11	33	3	2.5	0	2.5
12	36	0	0.0	0	0.0

The following table offers some examples for students who have taken a combination of ePoly and regular courses, where currently each ePoly course carries an academic load of 3.6 units and will remain unchanged in the new system, i.e., each will carry an academic load of 3 credits (ePoly is effectively following the new system since its inception):

At Start of Fall 2007		Current Units Completed	Current Units Remaining	New Credits Remaining	Full (3-Credit) Courses Remaining	Variable Credit Remaining
Full Courses Completed	Reg					
1	1	6.6	29.4	24.5	8	0.5
2	1	9.6	26.4	22.0	7	1
2	2	13.2	22.8	19.0	6	1
2	3	16.8	19.2	16.0	5	1
3	1	12.6	23.4	19.5	6	1.5
3	2	16.2	19.8	16.5	5	1.5
3	3	19.8	16.2	13.5	4	1.5
4	1	15.6	20.4	17.0	5	2
4	2	19.2	16.8	14.0	4	2
4	3	22.8	13.2	11.0	3	2
4	4	26.4	9.6	8.0	2	2
5	1	18.6	17.4	14.5	4	2.5
5	2	22.2	13.8	11.5	3	2.5
5	3	25.8	10.2	8.5	2	2.5
6	1	21.6	14.4	12.0	4	0
6	2	25.2	10.8	9.0	3	0
6	3	28.8	7.2	6.0	2	0
6	4	32.4	3.6	3.0	1	0

Please note that Ph.D students can also choose to register such courses to make up to exactly 75 credits.

II. How to Register for a Variable Credit Course

Following the university wide convention, the variable credit guided study courses offered by ECE department are given the following numbers: EL6005 (0.5 credit), EL6010 (1.0 credit), EL6015 (1.5 credit), EL6020 (2.0 credit), EL6025 (2.5 credit). These courses will be counted towards free electives.

To register for 2.0 credits or 2.5 credits (EL60XY, XY=20 or 25), you should plan on doing an independent guided study (project or reading) with a professor (option 1). You must speak to a professor in advance to get the commitment from the professor to advise you on this course. The amount of work to be conducted should be commensurate with the number of credits you register. The professor

must sign for your registration of EL60XY and is responsible for giving you the grade. As an alternative (option 2), you could also take a regular 3.0-credit EL course (say EL6113) and participate fully in the course, but register for EL60XY and pay only for 2.0 or 2.5 credits. But you must get the approval in advance from the instructor teaching, say, EL6113, and the instructor will give you grade for EL60XY based on your performance in EL6113.

To make up 1.5 credits, you may (option 1) choose regular courses in management or financial engineering that are 1.5 credits (these credits will be counted as free electives). (Last digit in the course number will be "1"). There are quite a few 1.5 credit MG and FE courses that are specially designed for engineering students. Alternatively (option 2), you may speak to an instructor of a regular 3-credit EL course (say EL6113) to see whether you can attend the course up to the midterm to earn 1.5 credits. If the instructor agrees, you will register the variable credit course EL6015 and the instructor for EL6113 will give you a grade for EL6015 based on your half-semester performance in EL6113. Finally (option 3) you can choose to do an independent guided study for 1.5 credits upon approval by an advisor.

To make up 0.5 or 1.0 credits, you may do extra work in a course that you register in the same semester (option 1). For example, if you register for a regular 3-credit course, say EL6113, you can speak to the instructor for EL6113 to see whether you can do additional work in that course that can be counted towards 0.5 or 1.0 credits. This typically can be in the form of mini-project, extra reading and giving presentation or report, computer programming assignment, etc. If the instructor agrees, you must register for the variable credit course (EL60XY, XY=05,10). The instructor will give you grades for EL6113 and EL60XY separately. Alternatively (option 2) you could do an independent guided study for 0.5 or 1.0 credit upon approval by an advisor.

Note that if you need X.Y credits, it is preferred that that you take one guided study course to make up exactly X.Y credits. But if, based on consultation with a graduate advisor or for some other logistic reasons, you prefer to take the guided study course more than once, with total credits X.Y, it is acceptable. For example, if you are missing 2.0 credit, you could take a 1.5 credit course and a 0.5 credit, or other combinations.

III. Certificate Requirement for Current Students

Current policy requires 5 courses at 3 unit each= 15 units=12.5 credits. New policy (effective Fall 07) requires 4 courses at 3 credit each=12 credits. If a student applying for certificate has any course in 3 unit, the student must complete at least 12.5 credits including at least 4 courses specified in the revised 12 credit certificate program, and possibly some variable credit reading/project courses related to the certificate that is approved by the certificate director.

Note that students who are in regular MS programs will likely to take all 5 courses, exceeding the 12.5 credit requirement.

IV. Ph.D Student Minor Requirement

Current policy requires a Ph.D student to take at least 4 courses from a minor area at 3 unit each=12 unit=10 credits. New policy requires 3 courses at 3 credit each = 9 credits. For any student graduating Fall 07 or after, we will require at least 3 courses (either offered in 3 units or 3 credits) in a minor area.

Note that this means that some current students may have only 9 units in minor upon graduation. This is acceptable as a minimal requirement. A Ph.D advisor may ask the student to take more courses in a minor area if he/she feels that is beneficial for the student.

IV. Ph.D Student Seminar Attendance Requirement

Current policy does not have seminar requirement. New policy requires a Ph.D student to register and pass the 0 credit seminar course (EL9900) at least 4 semesters. (a student must attend $\geq 2/3$ of seminars in a semester to pass).

Current students (entered before Fall 07) who will graduate in Spring 08 or after must register and pass EL9900 for at least 2 semesters. For students graduating Fall 07 or before, seminar requirement does not apply. For students entering Fall 07 or after, the 4 semester rule apply.

For part-time Ph.D students, who have difficulty to attend the seminars, this requirement can be waived. The waiver needs to be approved by the Chair of the ECE Graduate Curriculum and Standards Committee. The student should submit the approval note when applying for graduation.

All Ph.D advisors must state whether the seminar requirement is satisfied when approving Ph.D graduation, or say the requirement is waived with the attached approval for waiver.

V. Full Time Equivalency and Maintenance of Study

Full time status for graduate students will be conferred to those students taking 9 credits per semester. For doctoral students who have passed all the qualifying exams as specified by their department, the full time load will be 3 new credits per semester.

The policy on allowing students who have completed required number of credits registering 0-credit maintenance of study is still being determined and will be announced later.