

Major Steps to the PhD Degree in Electrical Engineering

Step 1. Select a major professor

Step 2. Pass the qualifier within your 2nd year

Step 3. Complete the ECE Plan of Study by the end of the semester in which you pass the qualifier.
Any course transfers must be approved at this time.

Step 4. . Take the General Exam:

- File the “Doctoral Degree Audit /Request for General Exam” to the Graduate School *at least three weeks prior* to the exam date. Form located on graduate school website.

Step 5. . Take the Final Exam (defend your dissertation): No sooner than *3 Months after* the General Exam.

- File a “Request for Doctoral Final Exam” ** must be submitted to the Graduate School at least 3 weeks prior to the exam date.

Step 6. Apply for the **Doctoral degree** by the graduate school deadline **

Step 7. Submit your dissertation to the Grad School ** through ETD. ETD instructions on graduate school website

** All graduate school forms/applications have strict deadlines. See graduate school calendar for the semester you plan to graduate. **Be informed of all graduate school deadlines!**

ECE GUIDELINES FOR THE DOCTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- The Doctoral advisory committee is formed in consultation with the major professor.
- A Doctoral Committee in ECE is required to have a minimum of **FIVE members (Four LSU Graduate Faculty Members and One Dean’s Representative** who is appointed by the Graduate School.
- In addition to the major professor, at least one other member must be from the major department (ECE) and at least one must be a full member of the LSU graduate faculty.
- The committee Chair* must be from the major department and is to be the students major professor/advisor.
 - *If either an adjunct or a non-tenure track faculty member is the major professor, he/she will serve as a co-chair and a graduate faculty member from the major department must co-chair the committee as well. **The committee will have two co-chairs.***
- At least ½ one-half of the members must be full-time tenured or tenure-track (graduate) faculty at LSU.
- The remaining members may be from the major department or may be from outside the department if pertinent to the student’s area of concentration, with the provision that at least one of the remaining members must be a full member of the graduate faculty.
- Any declared outside minors require representation, either among the members of the committee or by additional appointments to the committee

Plan of Study Guidelines - **PhD** (42 Credits)

The PhD Plan of Study is to be completed in consultation with your major professor and requires final approval from the ECE Graduate Studies Committee.

- 42 credit hours required
- At least 21 credits must be in LSU EE 4xxx or EE 7xxx
- Minimum 15 credits of LSU EE 7xxx in Major Area
- Approved elective courses TAKEN AT LSU are: EE, CS, Math, Physics, Chemistry, EXST 7004 & EXST 7014 OR courses specific to the PhD research topic
- Any other LSU courses not on listed on the approved list, require justification from major professor (memo or email to Graduate Advisor/Secretary)
- Maximum of 6 credits in EE 709X (not allowed in the major area)
- Maximum 9 credits in 4xxx level courses
- An MS Thesis from LSU will count towards 6 elective credits at the 7xxx level
- In general, a maximum 15 credits may be transferred upon approval Only
- A and B grades will be accepted
- In addition to the 42 credits, a minimum of 12 hours EE 9000 Dissertation Research required
- Any variations to these parameters require petition from the major professor to the graduate advisor