# Table of Contents

1. **INTRODUCTION**  
   1.1 Welcome  
   1.2 Degree Programs Offered  
   1.3 Program Guideline Charts  
   1.4 Writing Proficiency Policy  
   1.5 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training  

2. **STUDENT STATUS**  
   2.1 Admission Status  
   2.2 Regular Admission  
   2.3 Provisional Admission  
   2.4 Non-degree Status  

3. **MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM**  
   3.1 General Rules and Procedures  
      3.1.1 Transfer Credits  
      3.1.2 Course Load  
      3.1.3 Time Limit  
      3.1.4 Probation and Suspension from Graduate Studies  
      3.1.5 Selection of Advisor  
      3.1.6 Application for Graduation  
      3.1.7 Registration after All Course Work  
      3.1.8 Final Semester Registration  
      3.1.9 Graduate Assessment  
   3.2 Degree Requirements  
      3.2.1 MS and ME Degree Requirements in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering (except Transportation Engineering concentration)  
      3.2.2 MS and ME Degree Requirements in Transportation Engineering concentration in Civil Engineering  
   3.3 Procedures and Rules for M.S. Degrees  
      3.3.1 Thesis Advisory Committee  
      3.3.2 Writing Proficiency Diagnostic Evaluation  
      3.3.3 Thesis Preparation  
      3.3.4 Thesis Defense  
      3.3.5 Final Examination  
      3.3.6 Thesis Submission  
   3.4 Procedures and Rules for M.E. Degrees  
      3.4.1 Project Option  
      3.4.2 Course Option  

4. **FINANCIAL AID**  
   4.1 Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA)  
   4.2 Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA)  
   4.3 Enrollment and Registration Requirements  
   4.4 Unfunded Tuition Scholarships  
   4.5 Outside Employment  
   4.7 CEE Graduate Seminar Attendance  

5. **INTERNSHIP PARTICIPATION**  

6. **STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**
APPENDIX
CEE Forms (CEE)
University Graduate Forms
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome
Welcome to the graduate program of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology. As a graduate student here, you are a vital part of our department and college, and we feel it is important that you thoroughly understand your role. There are many sources of information designated to guide you through your program. Primary among these are your Graduate Program Director and Faculty Advisor. This guide and the University Graduate Catalog are sources with which you should become very familiar. This guide is meant to supplement the University Graduate Catalog, never to supersede it. The Graduate Catalog should be considered the authoritative source of written university policy.

1.2 Degree Programs Offered
The following degrees are offered in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering:

- Master of Engineering (M.E.) in Civil Engineering
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Civil Engineering
- Master of Engineering (M.E.) in Environmental Engineering
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Environmental Engineering
- Doctor of Engineering (D. Eng.) in Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Civil and Environmental Engineering

1.3 Program Guideline Charts
A simple flow chart diagramming graduate study is shown on Page 2 for the Masters program. After entering the program, follow the chart carefully, and check your progress in the chart until successful completion of the program. Necessary forms (Departmental-CEE and University-G or M) to be processed are listed alongside with key time schedules. These forms are included in the Appendix.

1.4 Writing Proficiency Policy
The CEE Department Policy on Writing Proficiency (adopted October 2004) is “Writing skills will be evaluated by the faculty advisors in their early stage of study. If deemed deficient, the student will be required to work with the advisor or attend training sessions provided by the University’s Graduate Writing Assistance Program (https://www.odu.edu/al/centers/writing-center) or other programs to improve their writing skills.”

1.5 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training
RCR training is required for all graduate students in the University. All graduate students must complete the RCR training prior to completion of 12 semester hours in their graduate program. Visit http://www.citiprogram.org. The instruction is available at ODU/Graduate School web site https://www.odu.edu/graduateschool.
Master Program Study Guideline

**Time Schedule**

- Admission to Master Degree Program
- Action and Forms
- Selection of Advisor
- Responsible Conduct of Research Training
- ME Degree Program
  - Course Option: 30 course credits
  - Project Option: 27 course credits, 3 project credits
- MS Degree Program
  - Thesis Option: 24 course credits & 6 thesis credits
  - Writing Proficiency Evaluation
  - Thesis Advisory Committee
  - Thesis Proposal
  - Graduate Application for Graduation

**Action and Forms**

- Consultation with GPD
- Evaluation of Transfer Credits, Form G1
- Forms CEE1
- Form CEE4
- Form M1
- ME Degree Program
- ME Degree Awarded
- MS Degree Program
- MS Degree Awarded

**Time Frame**

- Beginning of the first Semester
- Within 12 credits during first semester
- 24-credit hours
- 18-credit hours
- Maximum 6 years
- Approximately 6 months
- Minimum one semester
- 18 credit hours
- Two weeks
- Fail
- Pass
- Fail
- Fail
- Pass
- Pass
- One week
- Announcement of oral defense CEE 5

**Web Site**

- www.odu.edu/grad

**Graduate Assessment**

- Graduate Assessment
- ME Degree Awarded
- MS Degree Awarded
- Congratulations!
2. **STUDENT STATUS**

2.1 **Admission Status**
While a graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the College of Engineering and Technology, you will be placed in one of three categories:
- 1. Regularly admitted graduate student,
- 2. Provisionally admitted graduate student
- 3. Non-degree seeking graduate student

2.2 **Regular Admission**
Before you obtain a degree, you must be in category 1. To be placed in category 1, you must have applied to your degree program, met all admission requirements and received a letter stating that you have been accepted into the degree program as a regular student. For a description of admission requirements for the Civil and Environmental Engineering program, see the ODU Graduate Catalog.

2.3 **Provisional Admission**
After applying for admission to your program, you may receive a letter which states that you have been accepted as a provisional student in your degree program. The letter describing the conditions of your acceptance into the program should describe the level of performance you must achieve or required prerequisite courses. On your initiative, when you believe you have met the conditions stated in the letter you should meet with the Graduate Program Director to determine if you are ready to apply for change of status to regular student. If the Graduate Program Director believes that you have met the required conditions, he will initiate the request to have you moved to regular student status by submitting the Notice of Change of Status (Graduate Form G2). Without being admitted to regular student status, you cannot be certified for graduation.

2.4 **Non-degree Status**
If you are taking graduate courses in the College but have never been accepted into a degree program, you are in category 3. If you intend to apply for a degree program at some time, you must remember that you can transfer no more than 12 hours of credit (with a grade of B or above) taken in a non-degree status to a degree. All non-degree graduate students who have completed or will exceed 12 credit hours will be blocked from registering or attempting to register for additional graduate courses.

3. **MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM**

3.1 **General Rules and Procedures**
3.1.1 **Transfer Credits** A maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a graduate degree program from another accredited institution. Transfer credit will be given only for those courses that are certified as being applicable toward a comparable degree or certificate at the institution that offered the courses and that were completed with a grade of B or better. In addition, up to 12 credits (with B or better grade) from non-degree graduate status at Old Dominion University may be transferred upon the approval of Graduate Program Director. You may earn a maximum of six semester hours through experiential learning mechanisms. The credits earned through experiential learning
mechanism are included in the maximum number of transfer credits allowed at Old Dominion University.

A student who wishes to transfer credit earned prior to admission to a degree program at Old Dominion University must submit a special request for evaluation of transfer credits through the Graduate Program Director to the Office of Admissions (use Graduate Form G1). Following admission to the degree program, the student should obtain written permission from the Graduate Program Director before registering for a course at another institution with the intent to transfer the credit for that course into a graduate degree program at Old Dominion University. In no case is a transfer of credit final without the signed approval of the Graduate Program Director on the Evaluation of Transfer Credits form (Graduate Form G1). See the details of transfer credits in the ODU Graduate Catalog.

3.1.2 Course Load The minimum load for a full-time graduate student is 9 graduate credit hours per semester. No more than 12 hours per semester may be carried without the permission of the Graduate Program Director. In the summer sessions 6 credit hours constitute a full load. Graduate students with teaching or research assistantship with 20 hours per week from university fund shall register at least 9 hours (three hours for summer). In case of research assistantship from ODU Research Foundation with 20 hours per week could register at least 6 hours (three hours for summer).

3.1.3 Time Limit All requirements for a master's degree must be completed within a six-year period. If any of your credits granted toward your degree will be older than the time limit (6 years) at the time of graduation, those credits must be validated by an examination (Graduate Form G3). See the detail on Policy on Validation of Out-of-Date-Graduate Credit in ODU Graduate Catalog.

3.1.4 Probation and Suspension From Graduate Studies You shall maintain GPA of 3.0 or above in graduate courses. You will get a probation or will be suspended from graduate studies if you fail to satisfy the graduate continuance requirement set by the University for good academic standing.

3.1.5 Selection of Advisor When you enter a master degree program, either as a provisional or regular student, you should coordinate with the Graduate Program Director to select the academic advisor (Form CEE1) during your first semester at ODU. This advisor will be selected with consideration given to your wishes, your area of research interest and faculty workload and preference. Advisors are appointed by the Graduate Program Director.

3.1.6 Application for Graduation A formal application for the expected degree must be made in the Office of the Registrar five to six months prior to the expected date of graduation. The application deadlines are listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipated Graduation Month</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td>3rd Friday in July</td>
<td>2nd Friday in Nov.</td>
<td>2nd Friday in April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Application for Graduation form may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar or downloaded at https://www.odu.edu/content/dam/odu/col-dept/al/docs/gradappl.pdf.

3.1.8 Registration after All Course Work  Students who have completed all course work but are working during a given semester to complete other outstanding degree requirements (e.g. comprehensive examination, project, thesis, etc.) or wish to use University facilities and/or consult with faculty must be registered for at least one credit hour during that semester. Register for CEE 698 for continued project work, CEE 698 for continued thesis work, or CEE 998 for ME course option students.

3.1.9 Final Semester Registration  One-hour registration (CEE 698, CEE 699, or CEE 998) is required for all graduate students to maintain active status during the final semester prior to graduation if you are not formally enrolled in course work.

3.1.10 Graduate Assessment  Old Dominion University has developed an institution-wide plan to assess the quality of its graduate academic degree programs. During your final semester, you will be required to visit at http://www.odu.edu/academics/graduation-commencement/exit/graduate-assessment to complete a survey on your satisfaction with your academic program, as well as support services and other aspects of the University. You must complete the survey to receive your diploma or transcripts. Your responses will be used to improve teaching and learning in our graduate programs.

3.2 Degree Requirements

3.2.1 MS and ME Degree Requirements in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering (except Transportation Engineering concentration)  The Department offers Master of Science (M.S.) and Master of Engineering (M.E.) degrees both in Civil Engineering and in Environmental Engineering. The M.S. requires twenty-four credit hours of graduate course work and six credit hours of thesis research. The student must also pass an oral thesis defense examination. Project and course options are available for students who wish to pursue a M.E. degree. The project option requires twenty-seven credit hours in graduate course work plus a three-credit-hour project. The student must pass an oral examination on his or her project. The course option requires thirty credit hours of graduate course work and the student must pass a final comprehensive examination covering the entire program of study. The comprehensive examination is oral for the M.E. degree in Civil Engineering, and it is written for the M.E. degree in Environmental Engineering. Course selection will be made in consultation with your academic advisor and/or the Graduate Program Director. The required courses for various Master's degree programs are listed in Table 1. Category A is the group of upper level graduate courses designed for Civil Engineering Programs, while Category B is the one for Environmental Engineering Programs. Category C comprises the lower level Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate courses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Science Degree (Thesis)</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Master of Engineering Degree (Project Option)</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Master of Engineering Degree (Course Option)</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A for Civil Engineering Env. Core for Env. Eng.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>A for Civil Engineering Env. Core for Env. Eng.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>A for Civil Engineering Env. Core for Env. Eng.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A, B, C or D</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>A, B, C or D</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>A, B, C or D</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH or STAT</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH or STAT</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH or STAT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Comprehensive exam.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>30**</td>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>30**</td>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Note: For MS and ME Project options, no more than 9 credit hours can be at 500 level.

**Category A** (3 credit hours each) – Upper level courses in Civil Engr.
- CEE 710 Structural Dynamics
- CEE 711@ Finite Element Analysis
- CEE 712 Advanced Reinforced Concrete
- CEE 713 Prestressed Concrete
- CEE 714 Advanced Structural Analysis
- CEE 715* @ Engineering Optimization I
- CEE 717 Bridge Structures Design
- CEE 719 Inelastic Structures
- CEE 720 Structural Stability
- CEE 722@ Cluster Parallel Computing
- CEE 721 Plates
- CEE 723 Seismic Design of Steel Structures
- CEE 724 Retrofitting Methods for Bridges and Buildings
- CEE 725 Smart Structures
- CEE 726*Green Buildings
- CEE 730 Advanced Foundation Engineering
- CEE 731 Advanced Soil Mechanics
- CEE 732 Engineering Behavior of Soils
- CEE 733 Soil Dynamics
- CEE 741* Open Channel Flow
- CEE 747* Groundwater Flow
- CEE 761* Water Resources Process and Analysis Methods
- CEE 770 Transportation Safety
- CEE 771 Transportation Operation II
- CEE 772 Intelligent Transportation Systems
- CEE 773 Transportation Planning
- CEE 774 Transportation Network Flow Models
- CEE 775@ Transportation Network Algorithms
- CEE 776 Simulation in Transportation Networks
- CEE 782@ Design of Coastal Structures
- CEE 783@Tidal Hydraulics in the Estuarine and Coastal Environment
- CEE 787@ Dredging & Beach Engineering
- CEE 788@ Coastal Hydrodynamics & Sediment Processes
- CEE 789 Computational Environmental Fluid Dynamics

**Category B** (3 credit hours each) – Upper level courses in Env. Engr.
- CEE 650@ Pollution Prevention
- CEE 659 Carbon-Free Clean Energy
- CEE 715* Engineering Optimization I
- CEE 726*Green Buildings
- CEE 741* Open Channel Flow
- CEE 747* Groundwater Flow
- CEE 751@% Physicochemical Treatment Processes
- CEE 752@% Biological Wastewater Treatment
- CEE 753 Advanced Processes for Water &Wastewater Treatment
- CEE 754 Environmental Engineering Microbiology
- CEE 755@% Water Quality Management
- CEE 756@ Water Quality Modeling
- CEE 761* Water Resources Process and Analysis Methods
- CEE 762@% Aquatic Chemistry in Environmental Engineering
- CEE 788@ Coastal Hydrodynamics & Sediment Processes

**Category C** (3 credit hours each) – Lower level courses in Civil & Env.
- CEE 514 Masonry Structures Design
- CEE 515 Steel Structural Design
- CEE 516 Wood Structures Design
- CEE 530 Foundation Engineering
- CEE 531 Earth Structures Design with Geosynthetics
- CEE 532 Introduction to Earthquake Engineering
- CEE 533 Geomaterials Stabilization
- CEE 540 Hydraulic Engineering
- CEE 546 Urban Stormwater Hydrology
- CEE 547 Groundwater Hydraulics
- CEE 550 Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection System Design
- CEE 552@ Air Quality
- CEE 554@ Hazardous Waste Treatment
- CEE 558@ Sustainable Development
- CEE 560 Advanced Analytical Techniques in Env. Engr.
- CEE 559 Biofuels Engineering
- CEE 570 Transportation Fundamentals
- CEE 571 Transportation Operation I
- CEE 582@ Introduction to Coastal Engineering

**Category D** – Other graduate courses
Graduate level courses offered from other departments. These courses must be related to the program of study and must be approved by the student's academic advisor.

**MATH or STAT Category**
- CEE 700@ Civil and Environmental Engineering Experimental Design
- CEE 701 : Applied Mathematics for Civil and Environmental Engineers or a graduate level MATH or STAT course.

* Double listings in A and B categories.
@ Available in distant learning mode.
% Environmental engineering core course (Env. Core)
3.2.2 MS and ME Degree Requirements in Transportation Engineering concentration in Civil Engineering

The Department offers Master of Science (MS) and Master of Engineering (ME) degrees in Civil Engineering with concentration in Transportation Engineering. The **MS (thesis)** program requires twenty-four credit hours of graduate course work and six credit hours of thesis research. The student must also pass an oral thesis defense examination. The **ME program (project option)** requires twenty-seven credit hours in graduate course work plus a three-credit-hour project. The student must pass an oral examination on his or her project. The **ME program (course option)** requires thirty credit hours of graduate course work and the student must pass a final comprehensive examination covering the entire program of study. The Table 2 summarizes the requirements in MS and ME degrees in the concentration of Transportation Engineering.

### Table 2. Specific Course Requirements for Master's Degrees in Transportation Engineering Concentration (Civil Engineering Degrees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degrees</th>
<th>MS (Thesis)</th>
<th>ME (Project)</th>
<th>ME (Course)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses (CEE 571, and 773 or 777)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-level Transportation Elective (from CEE 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE 700 or graduate STAT course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Upper-level Transp. Elective Courses and other approved electives</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis (CEE 699) or Project (CEE 698)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total credit hours</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>30**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* no more than 9 credits can be at 500 level  ** no more than 12 credits can be at 500 level

- **Core Courses**
  - CEE 571: Transportation Operations I, and
  - CEE 773: Transportation Planning, or
  - CEE 777: Discrete Choice Theory and Modeling in Transportation

- **Upper-level Transportation Elective Courses**
  - CEE 770: Transportation Safety
  - CEE 771: Transportation Operations II
  - CEE 772: Intelligent Transportation Systems
  - CEE 773: Transportation Planning
  - CEE 774: Transportation Network Flow Models
  - CEE 775: Transportation Network Algorithms
  - CEE 776: Simulation in Transportation Networks
  - CEE 777: Discrete Choice Theory and Modeling in Transportation

- **Required Statistical Courses**
  - CEE 700: Civil and Environmental Engineering Experimental Methods or Graduate STAT
  - PADM 634: Regional Planning
  - PADM 721: Transportation Policy
  - PORT 611: International Maritime Transport
  - PORT 612: Port Operations and Management
  - PORT 614: Port Planning and Economics
  - PSYC 870: Human Factors Psychology
  - STAT 531: Theory of Statistics
  - STAT 532: Sampling Theory
  - STAT 535: Design and Analysis of Experiments
  - STAT 537: Applied Regression Analysis
  - STAT 549: Nonparametric Statistics

- **Other Approved Electives**
  - CEE 552: Air Quality
  - CEE 558: Sustainable Development
  - CEE 715: Engineering Optimization I
  - ENMA 600: Cost Estimation and Financial Analysis
  - ENMA 603: Operations Research
  - ENMA 717: Cost Engineering
  - ENMA 724: Risk Analysis
  - MSIM 601: Introduction to Modeling and Simulation
  - MSIM 751: Advanced Analysis for Modeling and Simulation
  - PADM 633: Methods of Urban Planning
3.3 Procedures and Rules for M.S. Degrees

3.3.1 Thesis Advisory Committee  You must petition the Graduate Program Director to appoint a thesis advisory committee. Use the Thesis Advisory Committee form (Graduate Form M1) for this purpose. This committee will consist of a minimum of three members of the graduate faculty. The chair shall be a full-time ODU faculty.

3.3.2 Writing Proficiency Diagnostic Evaluation  Your academic advisor will evaluate your English writing skills in the early stages of your MS program (during the first or second semester). If any deficiencies are found, University Graduate Writing Assistance Program (https://www.odu.edu/al/centers/writing-center) and/or your advisor will assist you in improving writing skills prior to thesis preparation (see Sec.1.4 of this handbook).

3.3.3 Thesis Preparation  You shall prepare a thesis upon the guidance of the advisor and thesis committee members. The character of the final work must testify to the distinction of the student and standard of the University. For guidelines in the preparation of your thesis you are referred to the "Guide for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations" available at https://www.odu.edu/content/dam/odu/offices/graduate-studies/thesis-dissertation/docs/thesis_dissertation_guide.pdf.

3.3.4 Thesis Defense  An essential part of the MS Degree requirement is the successful completion of a thesis defense and submission of the thesis.

At least two weeks prior to the proposed date of the thesis oral defense, you should submit four typed copies of the complete thesis to the chairman of the advisory committee. Also Submit your defense schedule including the abstract to the Graduate Program Director at least one week prior to the defense using CEE 5 Form. Graduate Program Director will publicize your dissertation defense schedule and invite the student body and faculty to attend.

3.3.5 Final Examination Result  The decision as to whether a student has passed or failed the examination will be rendered in closed session by a majority vote of the thesis examination committee (Graduate Form M2). You will be notified immediately of the oral examination results by the committee chair.

In the event you fail this examination you may repeat it once. If you pass the examination, but do not graduate within 12 months, you will be required to repeat the examination.

3.3.6 Thesis Submission  When you pass your oral defense, you shall submit your thesis (including any post-exam corrections) in "final" form to the Dean’s Office. The thesis (original copy) must be delivered to the Dean’s Office accompanied by the Thesis Acceptance and Processing form (Graduate Form M3) signed by the thesis advisory committee members and Graduate Program Director no later than three weeks prior to the last day of classes prior to graduation. The Dean’s Office will review your thesis for errors in grammar and formatting. You should make requested corrections and
resubmit as soon as possible. If the corrections cannot be made before the last day of classes your graduation will be delayed at least another semester.

When the thesis is deemed acceptable, the Thesis Acceptance and Processing form (Graduate Form M3) will be signed by the Dean, and you should submit it according to the instructions in the "Guide for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations" to the Office of Registrar by the last day of classes of the semester in which you plan to graduate.

3.4 Procedures and Rules for M.E. Degrees

3.4.1 Project Option If you are enrolled in Master of Engineering degree project option program, you must complete a Master's Project under the supervision of your advisor. A project report must be produced by you. The format of the report is specified by the advisor.

You are also required to pass an oral project defense examination. This examination will be administered no earlier than the last semester of your course work. The examination is administered by a committee of at least three graduate faculty members appointed by the Graduate Program Director after consultation with you and your advisor. You must provide each member of this committee with a copy of your project report at least one week before the examination date.

Passage of the project defense examination requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members. The Results of Master's Degree Examination or Requirement form (Graduate Form M2) signed by the committee members and the Graduate Program Director must be delivered to the Office of the Registrar by the end of the graduating semester. If you pass the examination, but do not graduate within 12 months, you will be required to repeat the examination. In the event you fail the project defense examination you may repeat it once. At the discretion of the examination committee, you may be required to complete another Master's Project before you become eligible to retake the oral defense examination.

3.4.2 Course Option An essential part of the Master of Engineering Degree requirement for the course option is the successful completion of a comprehensive master's final examination. The final examination is oral for the Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering degree, and it is written for the Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering degree. This examination will be administered no earlier than the last semester of your course work. Also, it must be first attempted no later than one semester after completing your course work. The oral examination is administered by a committee of at least three graduate faculty members appointed by the Graduate Program Director after consultation with you and your academic advisor. The Result of Master's Degree Examination or Requirement form (Graduate Form M2) signed by the committee members and the Graduate Program Director must be delivered to the Office of the Registrar Office by the end of the graduating semester. Passage of the final examination requires an affirmative vote of a majority of committee members. If you pass the exam, but do not graduate within 12 months, you will be required to repeat the exam. In the event you fail this examination, you may repeat it once with a sufficient period of time to study the exam materials (normally three to four months) after the
initial examination. At the discretion of the examination committee you may have to complete additional course requirements before you become eligible to retake the comprehensive examination.

4. FINANCIAL AID

Various types of financial aid are available on a competitive basis for graduate students in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

4.1 Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA)

There are two categories in graduate teaching assistantship: GTA Instructors and GTA Assistants. GTA Instructors are expected to participate directly in teaching activities including class instructors, laboratory supervisors, recitation leaders and tutors. GTA Assistants do not directly instruct students, rather assist instructors to work as grading, laboratory preparation, etc. The workload for a full-time appointment is normally 20 hours per week on average. The minimum stipend for full-time appointment is $12,800 for master's students per academic year. Part-time Teaching Assistantships may be available also requiring teaching responsibilities of less than 20 hours per week.

To qualify as GTA Instructors, students must pass the Graduate Teaching Assistant Institute prior to their first semester of appointment. Without passing Graduate Teaching Institute, students are not allowed to be a GTA Instructor. Prior to attending the GTA Institute, new international assistants must take and pass the SPEAK test administered by the Old Dominion University English Language Center or pass the Institute’s re-test. This test measures the oral proficiency in English.

4.2 Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA)

Graduate Research Assistantships may be funded through sponsored research projects. The appointee is expected to participate directly in research conducted by faculty members. The workload for a full-time appointment is normally 20 hours per week on average. The minimum stipend for full-time appointment is $12,800 for master's students per academic year. Part-time Research Assistantships may be available also.

4.3 Enrollment and Registration Requirements

Assistantship recipients are required to be enrolled each semester of their appointment. There are two categories of enrollment requirements:

1. Assistantship recipients who are supported by University/Commonwealth funds are required to be enrolled each fall and spring semesters of their appointment and must register for and complete a minimum of nine hours of graduate course work per semester and six hours in the summer.

2. Assistantship recipients who are supported by other funding sources are required to be enrolled each fall and spring semesters of their appointment and must register for and complete a minimum of six hours of graduate course work per semester and three hours in the summer.
Master's students holding graduate teaching, research, or administrative assistantships who are in their final semester and who are within six hours of completing their degree requirements may register for six or fewer graduate credit hours needed for the completion of their degree. Those who are completing a Master's Thesis or Master's Project but have not yet defended it may register for one hour of graduate credit in their final semester. Such students will be considered full-time. Master's students are eligible for reduced enrollment requirement for no more than one semester.

Undergraduate prerequisite courses and courses taken as audits are not counted toward the enrollment requirement. Graduate assistants normally may not enroll for more than nine credit hours per semester. Enrollment for 10 to 12 credit hours requires the approval of Graduate Program Director. No graduate assistant is permitted to enroll for more than 12 credit hours in any semester the appointment is held.

### 4.4 Unfunded Tuition Scholarships

Unfunded tuition scholarships may be offered to graduate assistants. Students must hold the appointment for more than one-half of the semester with at least $3,200 support per regular semester or $2,500 during summer semester to qualify for unfunded tuition scholarship.

At master's level, the unfunded tuition scholarship normally covers the difference between In-State and Out-of-State tuition. In other words, master's level graduate assistants will be responsible for paying In-State tuition regardless of their domicile.

Graduate assistants seeking unfunded tuition scholarships must consult with the Graduate Program Director two weeks before the beginning of each semester to prepare the necessary paper work.

### 4.5 Outside Employment

Full-time (20 hours per week) graduate assistants are not permitted to accept additional on-campus employment, except under unusual circumstances and only by the approval of the Dean. Any off-campus employment should be undertaken with caution and in consultation with Graduate Program Director. It should in no way adversely affect academic performance or assistantship duties and responsibilities. International students shall consult the Office of Visa & Immigration Service Advising for international student employment.

### 4.7 CEE Graduate Seminar Attendance

All CEE graduate students (GTA and GRA) who are financially supported either by the Department or ODU Research Foundation are required to attend all CEE Graduate Seminars during Fall and Spring semesters. Absences are allowed only for exceptions in exceptional cases with written request to and approval by the Graduate Program Director (CEE 6 Form) (adopted on 5/11/2017).

### 5. Internship Participation

For international students, who attend school full time, paid internship may be allowed upon the recommendation of the department GPD and the approval of ODU’s Career Management Center and/or International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). However, since
none of the department’s graduate degree programs require practical training or internship as a part of the curriculum, the department will not recommend any curricular practical training (CPT) application. In addition, internships often interrupt students’ work on their thesis, dissertation, or project, and thus result in a lengthy delay of their graduation. Therefore, the department, in general, does not recommend participation in optional practical training (OPT) before their degree completion. Rather, the department recommends that students participate in OPT after obtaining their degrees. Only if the following conditions are met, the GPD may recommend OPT participation while they are pursuing their graduate degrees:

1. An internship offer letter must clearly state the job description for the student and show the merit for the student to gain real world experience beyond the classroom situation in their study field.
2. The student must submit a written detailed time schedule of planned thesis, dissertation, or project work until the completion of the degree and obtain the approval from the academic advisor. If the student fails to meet the scheduled plan, the renewal of internship during the subsequent semester will not be recommended.
3. The academic advisor must submit his/her written evaluation and recommendation to the GPD after reviewing Items 1 and 2 above and consultation with the student. The academic advisor must support the application for the student to receive the GPD’s recommendation.

These three conditions will apply also to domestic students who would like to participate in internship programs while they are pursuing their graduate degrees (adapted on 02/16/2006).

6. **STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**

As an ODU international student, you are required to have university provided health insurance at all times with very limited circumstances for waiver from this policy. Visit [http://www.odu.edu/international/insurance#tab132=3](http://www.odu.edu/international/insurance#tab132=3) for details. For domestic students, it is not monetary.

Students, who are employed as TA/RA with $5,000 or more per semester, may be eligible for university subsidy. Please check the eligibility and policy at [https://www.odu.edu/graduateschool/graduate-student-health-insurance](https://www.odu.edu/graduateschool/graduate-student-health-insurance).
APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE FORMS

Department Forms (CEE)

1. Graduate Program Advisor/Change of Advisor
4. Graduate Writing Proficiency Evaluation Form
6. Request of Absence from CEE Graduate Seminar

University Graduate Forms

The following university graduate forms can be obtained from

https://www.odu.edu/graduateschool/forms

General Forms – G
Evaluation of Transfer Credits - G1
Notice of Change of Status - G2
Re-Validation of Out-of-Date Graduate Credit by Examination - G3
GPD’s Recommendation For Reinstatement from Suspension - G4

Master’s Level Forms – M
Appointment of Master’s Thesis Committee - M1
Result of Master’s Examination or Requirement - M2
Master’s Thesis Acceptance and Processing - M3
Master’s Thesis Delivery- M4
Exception to Time Limits Allowed to Complete Master’s Degree - M5
Graduate Program Advisor/Change of Advisor

A. Initial appointment of advisor
I hereby request the following faculty to serve as the graduate program advisor for:

_________________________,______________,______________________,________
(Student name – requested)                       (student I.D. Number)      (Student signature)   (Date)

who is enrolled in the ______________________________________________ Program
(Title of degree program)

_________________,_____________________________ , ____________
(Advisor’s name - agreed to serve)      (Advisor’s signature)    (Date)

Graduate Program Director’s Approval:__________________________ , ____________
(GPD’s signature)   (Date)

B. Request to change of advisor
I hereby request to change my advisor from the above faculty member to the following faculty member with reasons listed:

Reason for change:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

_________________________,______________,______________________,________
(Student signature - requested)   (Date)

_________________,_____________________________ , ____________
(New Advisor’s name - agreed to serve)      (Advisor’s signature)    (Date)

Graduate Program Director’s Approval:__________________________ , ____________
(GPD’s signature)   (Date)

Original: Graduate Program Director  
cc:    Student File
Graduate Writing Proficiency Evaluation Form

CEE Department Policy on Writing Proficiency (October 2004):

“Writing skills will be evaluated by the faculty advisors in their early stage of study. If deemed deficient, the student will be required to work with the advisor or attend training sessions provided by the University’s Graduate Writing Assistance Program (Room 720, BAL, http://www.odu.edu/al/gwap) or other programs to improve their writing skills.”

Student Name: ___________________________ I.D. No. _______________

Semester of Admission to Program: _________________

Program: _____________________________, Academic Advisor: ________________

**Evaluation 1.** Date: ________________, by ________________________

(Evaluator’s signature)

Materials used for evaluation (circle): class term paper, research paper, others (____)

Recommendation: student ( ) is writing proficient, ( ) is not writing proficient and recommend:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

**Evaluation 2.** Date: ________________, by ________________________

(Evaluator’s signature)

Materials used for evaluation (circle): class term paper, research paper, others (____)

Recommendation: student ( ) is writing proficient, ( ) is not writing proficient and recommend:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

**Evaluation 3.** Date: ________________, by ________________________

(Evaluator’s signature)

Materials used for evaluation (circle): class term paper, research paper, others (____)

Recommendation: student ( ) is writing proficient, ( ) is not writing proficient and recommend:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

(Keep this form in the student file during evaluation process. After the evaluator evaluated student to be proficient, submit to GPD for approval)

__________________________________,___________

(GPD’s Signature-Approved) (Date)

ORGINIAL: Students’ Folder

cc: Student /Advisor/ GPD
Announcement of Ph.D. Dissertation/M.S. Thesis Oral Defense

This form should be completed and submitted to GPD at least one week prior to the time of the oral defense, so that GPD can promptly publish an announcement in an appropriate University news media.

Student: ___________________________ Advisor: ___________________________

Building: ___________________________ Room: ___________________________

Day: ___________________________ Time: ___________________________

Dissertation/Thesis Title:

Abstract:
Request of Absence from CEE Graduate Seminar

All CEE graduate students (GTA and GRA) who are financially supported either by the Department or ODU Research Foundation are required to attend all CEE Graduate Seminars during Fall and Spring semesters. Absences are allowed only for exceptions in exceptional cases with written request to and approval by the Graduate Program Director (adopted on 5/11/2017).

Student: ________________________________ Advisor: _____________________________

Seminar Date: __________________________

Reason of Absence from CEE Graduate Seminar:

Student signature __________________________________________ Date: _________________

Approval by Graduate Program Director: ______________________ Date: _________________

Original: Student file
Copy: Student advisor