BS-MS/ME Information Session

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Outline

• BS-MS/ME program in ECE
  – Requirements
  – Path to graduation
• Financial support
• Graduate resources
Accelerated ECE Programs

- Official name → Linked BS-Master program
  - Master of Science (MS) → research & thesis
  - Master of Engineering (ME) → non-thesis
- Complete at least 30 graduate credits
- 6 graduate credits also count towards the BS degree (“double dipping”)

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<th>MS</th>
<th>ME Project Option</th>
<th>ME Course Option</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 graduate courses + 6 Master thesis credits (ECE 699) 1 credit of graduate seminar (ECE 731)</td>
<td>9 regular courses + 1 project course (ECE 698 involves written report and oral presentation)</td>
<td>10 regular courses + Master Comprehensive Exam</td>
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Master’s Degrees Requirements

- 1 math intensive course to satisfy the Math requirement (chosen from among ECE 601, ECE 611, ECE 623, ECE 651, or ECE 695)
- No more than 3 graduate courses at 500 level
- At least 5 graduate courses at 600 and 700 levels
- Two of these graduate courses count for both BS and MS/ME

- Initial course plan must be approved by GPD during last undergraduate semester → use appropriate curriculum worksheet (MS/ME) and start by including the two graduate courses taken as undergraduates
- Add desired courses using current/long-term schedules available on ECE dept. webpage
- Revise as necessary
- Complete Responsible Conduct of Research training (online through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative – CITI website)
Path to Graduation → MS Degree

- Full-time students: take 9 credits/semester in Fall and Spring and 6 credits in the Summer → graduation in one year after BS
- Part-time students → depends when all requirements are completed
  - Find MS thesis advisor before completing 12 credits (first semester as graduate student)
  - Form Thesis Advisory Committee before completing 18 credits (second semester)
  - Register for ECE 731 (1 cr. graduate seminar, not offered in the Summer semester)
  - Apply for graduation 1 semester before the graduating semester (summer is considered a semester).
  - Complete all other requirements before the posted deadlines (Registrar's Office)
  - Students can reapply for graduation as needed.

MS Thesis Requirements

- Consult and follow the current official ODU Thesis and Dissertation Guide. It is available from the Office of Graduate Studies web site.
- MS thesis should
  - Include formal problem statement
  - Use consistent citation style with complete citations
  - Include permission to use of copyrighted figures, tables, or other materials
Path to Graduation → ME Degree

- Full-time students → take 9 credits in the Fall and Spring semesters and 6 credits in the Summer
- Take Master Comprehensive Exam or Master Project with ECE faculty advisor
- Apply for graduation 1 semester before the graduating semester (summer is considered a semester).
- Complete all requirements before the posted deadlines (Registrar’s Office)
- Students can reapply for graduation as needed.

ME Project

- ECE 698 – 3 credit course
- Must find faculty mentor
  - Prepare formal syllabus with project milestones and grading policies → must include written project report and oral presentation
  - Regular grade entered by faculty mentor based on actual performance on project milestones
- Expect to dedicate the same amount of time as in a regular course (at least 150 min./week)
ME Comprehensive Exam

• Offered two time a year (November & April)
• Must sign up in the beginning of the semester
• Solve 5 problems out of a choice of 26, with no more than 2 math problems
• Problems are graded on a 0 to 10 scale
• Must get a score of 30 or better to pass the exam

Financial Support

• Options available to full-time students
  – teaching and research assistantships (ECE and/or other academic departments)
  – other on-campus work opportunities (library, Webb center, athletic services, housing, etc.)
• Students pursuing graduate studies while working (full- or part-time) do not qualify for on-campus employment and should contact employer about education benefits associated with their position
ECE Teaching Assistantships

• Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)
  – only MS and PhD students are eligible
  – awarded on a competitive basis with priority given to PhD students
  – assist with undergraduate teaching → work 20 hrs./week on specific activities (grading, tutoring, lab assistant, recitations)
  – include a stipend and possibly tuition waiver
  – assignments are made by the department chair based on faculty recommendation
  – part-time appointments for less than 20 hrs./week may be occasionally available

ECE Research Assistantships

• Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)
  – assist faculty on sponsored research grants and contracts → ODU Research Foundation
  – number of hours/week varies depending on the project requirements
  – include a stipend and possibly tuition waiver
  – assignments are approved by faculty responsible for the specific grant/contract
  – usually awarded to students pursuing MS and working on research for their MS thesis
Graduate Resources

- ODU Graduate Catalog
  - catalog.odu.edu
  - Use the Catalog entry in the A to Z Index.

- Graduate Registration Requirements
- Graduate Policies & Procedures
- Graduate Degree University Requirements

Office of Graduate Studies

Resources

- Graduate Forms
- Graduate Assistantships
- Graduate Curriculum Development & Change Manual
- Graduate Teaching Assistant Handbook
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Graduate Catalog
- Library Services
- Thesis & Dissertation Guide
- Graduate Degree Programs
- Masters Degrees
ECE Dept.’s Web Site

http://www.odu.edu/ece

Click on Graduate Resources for information on
- course schedules and syllabi
- curriculum sheets
- graduate seminar schedule
- ME comprehensive exam