



Reference Policies

Primary Coursework

All ECE Ph.D students must take 12 credits of graduate-level ECE courses approved by their Ph.D. advisors. Of these, 9 credits must be at least 700 level or above.

- Research, independent study, or seminar credits (e.g., ECE 610, 611, 699, 790, 890, 990, 999, 922) may not be used to satisfy this requirement.
- ECE courses used to satisfy minor requirements may not be used to satisfy this requirement.
- All courses cross-listed with ECE count as ECE courses. (For example: ECE 760 and CS 760 are the same course. Therefore if a student took either ECE 760 or CS 760, it would count as an ECE course and can be used toward the ECE Coursework Requirement.)

Minor Options

A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 must be achieved for the minor. Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements cannot be used to fulfill primary Ph.D. course requirements. Research and thesis cannot be used to satisfy the minor or Graduate/Professional certificate (e.g., 790,890, 990). A student cannot earn a doctoral minor and a Graduate/Professional certificate of the same name. Coursework must be graded courses numbered 300 or above. Courses taken as audits or pass/fail do not count. No more than 5 credits of coursework completed more than 5 years prior to admission to the doctoral program; coursework taken 10 years ago or more may not be used.

Minor Option A: Single Department

To satisfy Option A, a student must satisfy the minor course requirements as dictated by a single department outside of ECE. It is important to note that some departments may require more than nine credits; many departments require 12 credits. Students should confirm the requirements with the minor department before taking courses.

Minor Option B: Distributed

To satisfy Option B, a student must earn credits from two or more departments totaling at least nine credits. One of the departments can be ECE. If the student takes courses in two or three departments, at least two of the courses must be 700 level or above. Approval of the courses for the Option B minor is certified by the ECE Graduate Committee. An appeal is needed for an ECE cross listed course to count as an external department. Contact your ECE graduate coordinator well in advance to start this process.

- 3 Credits in Department A (700+ level)
- 3 Credits in Department B (700+ level)
- 3 Credits in Department A, B, or C (400+ level)

Minor Option C: Graduate/Professional Certificate

To satisfy Option C, a student must complete a Graduate/Professional Certificate in a program outside of Electrical and Computer Engineering. A maximum 3 credits of independent study (e.g., 699, 799, 899, 999) may be used for this minor option.

Prelim Committee

At least 3 members (preferably 4)

At least 3 current (or within one year of leaving) graduate faculty at UW-Madison

At least 2 current (or within one year of leaving) ECE graduate faculty.

At least 1 Non-ECE UW-Madison graduate faculty (i.e. UW professor in CS, ME, etc). ECE Affiliates count.

See the ECE Handbook and/or the Graduate School's Committees policy for more information