

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
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College of Engineering
University of California, Santa Barbara

Doctor of Philosophy – Electrical and Computer Engineering 2022-23

Degree Requirements

In addition to departmental requirements, candidates for graduate degrees must fulfill University requirements described in the “Graduate Education” section of the UCSB General Catalog.

Immediately upon admission to studies toward the Ph.D. degree, students should consult with their individual faculty advisors regarding courses to be taken. Doctoral students must have completed at least **72.0** units of coursework (this may include ECE 596), but doctoral students are expected to take all available courses in their area of interest that the faculty deem relevant to their programs. In addition, they are expected to take other courses for breadth. There is no foreign language requirement in the program.

For all students with M.S. degrees entering the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Ph.D. program with an emphasis in Computer Engineering beginning Fall 2010 or later, or for those with an emphasis in Communication and Signal Processing beginning Fall 2018 or later, at least 24 units of graduate engineering or science courses taken at UCSB with a letter grade of B or better are required for the doctoral degree in ECE.

All students in the Ph.D. program are required to pass the departmental screening examination for which the overall GPA requirement is 3.30. Failure to have the 3.30 GPA at the time the student is required to take the screening exam constitutes an automatic fail. A student who fails the screening exam once must take it again for the second time the immediate quarter when the exam is offered again.

When the screening examination is passed, the student selects a Ph.D. committee. The committee administers an oral qualifying examination at such time as it deems the student to be adequately prepared and the university residence requirements have been satisfied. After the qualifying exam has been passed, the student is eligible for advancement to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.

Students must prepare a dissertation based on original research in a subject area approved by the Ph.D. committee. The dissertation must be defended in an open oral dissertation defense examination.

Time-to-Degree: 4 years to advance to candidacy, 6 years to complete the Ph.D.