



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

New MSEE Student FAQ

1. I am a newly admitted MSEE student. What courses should I take during my first semester?

For students starting after 2019, we recommend you take the five core courses: EE 508, EE 511, EE 531, EE 554, and EE 588, at your earliest opportunity. These are courses which must be taken by all MSEE students, and they can fill up quickly. Once you have enrolled in as many core courses as possible, start looking at your elective options.

2. Can I register for 400-level courses as a graduate student?

Yes, you can take up to two related 400-level courses* to fulfill your elective requirements. Please request a permit from the EE office staff.

**Please note: EE 400D (Design Project), EE 490 (Special Problems) and EE 405 (Special Topics) are not accepted for credit in the MSEE program.*

3. Is the GWAR required?

As of June 2022, GWAR (Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement) is still required for undergraduates, but it is no longer required for graduate students.

4. I am listed as "conditionally classified." What does this mean and what do I need to do?

The designation "Conditionally Classified" indicates that you are missing a course (or courses) required for MSEE admission. You have been given time to rectify this by taking and passing the course with a "C" or better grade during your first two semesters in the program. You may not advance to candidacy until you have cleared this requirement, also known as a "deficiency." After taking and passing all deficiency classes, send an email to the Graduate Advisor to change the state from Conditionally Classified Status to Classified Status. The Graduate Advisor will then submit a change request to Enrollment Services through the Advisor request system (ARS).

5. I am trying to register for my deficiency course, but I'm receiving an error message stating that I am missing some lower division prerequisites. What can I do?

Please contact the EE office staff and request a course permit.

6. What is Academic Warning and how does it work?

As a graduate student, **you are required to maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout your program**. Students who fail to maintain the required GPA are placed on Academic Warning. If you find yourself in this situation, work closely with your academic advisor to devise a plan for resolving the issue. You will have two semesters to raise your GPA to 3.0. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the university. Please use this link for more information: <https://www.csulb.edu/student-records/academic-standing-and-appeals>

7. Please explain Advancement to Candidacy and its requirements.

After your first or second semester as a graduate student, you should advance to candidacy. This is the process by which you choose your concentration and present the university with your academic plan for graduation. You must advance at least one semester before you apply to graduate. Other requirements for advancement are:

- You must have completed 9 units of the MSEE required courses with grade "C" or better
- You must have cleared any deficiencies
- You must be in good academic standing (not on Academic Warning) with a minimum 3.0 GPA
- You must be currently enrolled

Please work closely with your academic advisor to monitor your progress towards graduation. We recommend you advance to candidacy as early as possible in your desired semester since processing can take a few weeks.

Concentrations

1. Power, Control Systems

Faculty: Amiri, Chassiakos, Lee, Mozumdar, Yeh

2. Electronics, Digital Systems

Faculty: Ary, Hedayatipour, Khoo, Lee, Mozumdar, Teng, Wagdy, Wang

3. Communications, Digital Signal Processing, Machine Learning

Faculty: Ahmed, Chang, Kwon, Yeh

8. What are the differences between the Comprehensive Exam track and the Thesis track? When must I choose?

When you apply for advancement to candidacy, you'll be asked to choose either the Thesis or the Comprehensive ("Comp") Exam track. Your chosen track represents your culminating experience as a graduate student. Choose your track as early in your program as possible, as this will help you form your academic plan. Requirements for each track are as follows:

MSEE Comp Exam track (30 total units):

- 15 units of required (core) courses (3 units each):
 - EE 508
 - EE 511
 - EE 531
 - EE 554
 - EE 588

- 15 units of related elective courses, including up to two 400-level courses
- Culminating ~~experience~~ activity: The EE Comprehensive Exam is given in the Spring or Fall semester. This exam will comprise materials from each of the five core courses.

MSEE Thesis track (30 total units):

- 15 units of required (core) courses (3 units each):
 - EE 508
 - EE 511
 - EE 531
 - EE 554
 - EE 588

- 6 units EE 698 (thesis course). Students may take 3 units of EE 698 for two consecutive semesters, if desired. *
- 9 units of related elective courses, including up to two 400-level courses.
- Culminating activity : presentation of Thesis to the EE Thesis Committee and then submission of the approved document to the University Thesis and Dissertation Office for evaluation. Please consult your academic advisor for dates and deadlines.

**Please note: You may not advance to candidacy while you are on academic warning. Further, you may not enroll in EE 698 (MS thesis research) until you have advanced to candidacy.*

9. When are the Comp Exams held and how do I register?

Comp exams are held on the **first Friday in March and the first Friday in October**. A few weeks prior to the exam date, the EE department will email all eligible students with registration instructions and exam details (location, time, etc.). You must register before the designated deadline and must arrive promptly on exam day to be allowed to sit for the exam. Students must be advanced to candidacy to qualify.

10. I plan to choose the Thesis track. Kindly walk me through the process.

Thesis students must enroll in six units of EE 698 (MSEE thesis course). Students are required to complete and defend a thesis under faculty supervision and with the support of a thesis committee, and to submit an acceptable manuscript to the University Library. Please use this link for more information about thesis submission, including process and deadlines:

<https://www.csulb.edu/thesis-and-dissertation-office>

- You must advance to candidacy before enrolling in EE 698.
- Contact your potential MS thesis advisor (not the Graduate Advisor) with your proposal.
- Based on your discussion with the MS thesis advisor, Enroll EE 698.
- In general, we recommend enrolling in three units of EE 698 per semester. Thus, it may take you two semesters to fulfill the requirement.
- You will present/defend your thesis with three thesis committee members. You must have their unanimous approval to pass the defense.
- COE submission deadline is usually two weeks before the library submission deadline. Please plan accordingly.

11. I am working and would like to enroll in online courses. Will CSULB EE be offering an online program soon?

The nature of our lab courses prevents us from offering an entirely online program. We are proud to offer our students hands-on, practical instruction and collaborative research opportunities. MSEE courses are offered in the evenings for our working students, but with few exceptions, all courses are in-person. Our program is one of just a few that allow students to attend school part-time so they can also work.

12. I've finished all my courses. I'd like to apply for graduation, but I don't see that option in my student portal. Please help.

The option to apply for graduation will appear only after you have completed your courses, advanced to candidacy, and passed your final project (comp exam or thesis). In addition, you must have maintained the required 3.0 GPA to qualify. Once you apply for graduation, you'll also need to let the university know when you plan to participate in commencement ceremonies. Please note that this is a separate process that ensures you are recognized at graduation. Use this link for more information:

[CSULB Graduate Programs - Apply to Graduate](#)

Fall Deadline: Apply before March 1

Spring Deadline: Apply before October 15

Missed the deadline? You can still apply. You will pay a missed deadline fee of \$10.

Advising Period – University Policy for All Colleges & Departments

- Graduate advising (in person and via email) is available during instructional weeks in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Graduate Advising is NOT available during academic and public holidays, summer or winter breaks.
- The Graduate Advisor's email account is NOT monitored outside of the official advising period.
- If a student has emailed the Graduate Advisor outside of the official advising period, the student must resend the email when graduate advising resumes.

Resources

Graduate Student Success Center (GSSC)

COE Graduate Program Coordinator: Dr. Feike Leij

Feike.Leij@csulb.edu

562.985.5119

COE Senior Graduate Academic Specialist: Ms. Helen Yohannes Abeye

helen.yohannes@csulb.edu

Electrical Engineering Department

EE Department Chair: Dr. Ebrahim Amiri

Ebrahim.Amiri@csulb.edu

562.985.1517

EE Graduate Advisor: Dr. Hossein Jula

Hossein.Jula@csulb.edu

Administrative Support Coordinator: Ms. Rowena Moore

Rowena.Moore@csulb.edu

562.985.8050

Administrative Support Assistant: Ms. Dyani Park

Dyani.Park@csulb.edu

562.985.8043

Library Information & Support EN2-109

COE Librarian: Ms. Hema Ramachandran

Hema.Ramachandran@csulb.edu

562.985.5749 (Main Library)

562.985.2304 (Dudley Library, EN2-109) Dudley Hours: M-F 9am-5pm

Writing and Communication Resource Center, VEC 128B

Program Director: Dr. Maryam Qudrat

Maryam.qudrat@csulb.edu

562.985.7818

Hours: M-F 9am-5pm*

**Students must make an appointment for report review*