

Graduate Studies in Electrical, Computer, and Software Engineering

Frequently Asked Questions

1) *What graduate degrees do you offer?*

- We offer a master's degree in electrical engineering (MSEE), a master's degree in software engineering (MSSE), a master's degree in computer information science (MCIS), and a doctoral degree in engineering (D.Eng.).

2) *What does it take to get a master's degree in electrical engineering?*

- Thesis option: 24 credit hours of coursework and 6 credit hours of thesis.
- Non-thesis option: 32 credit hours of coursework.

3) *What does it take to get a master's degree in software engineering?*

- Thesis option: 28 credit hours of coursework and 6 credit hours of thesis.
- Non-thesis option: 32 credit hours of coursework and 4 credit hours of project work.

4) *How much is tuition?*

- Please refer to this page <https://www.csuohio.edu/treasury-services/tuition-and-fees>

5) *Do you offer financial aid?*

- Although we cannot give financial aid to every qualified student, many students receive financial aid. Students receiving aid must meet minimum enrollment requirements. Doctoral students are given preference for financial aid.
 - Partial or full tuition waivers.
 - Graduate assistantships, typically paid from a professor's research grant.
 - Hourly employment as a teaching or research assistant.

6) *What are some of the professor's research areas?*

- Software engineering: data mining, distributed systems, and wireless sensor networks
- Computer engineering
 - Digital electronics, embedded systems, computer architecture, and computer networks
 - Mobile and fault-tolerant computing, and computer and network security
- Control systems
 - Micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS), and bioelectronics
 - Robust control, optimal control, and computer intelligence
- Communication systems
 - Robust communications, spread spectrum techniques, and modulation and coding schemes
- Power electronics and power systems
 - Electric machines and drives, and high power electronics
 - Power system operation and control

7) *Can I get a graduate degree while working full-time?*

- Yes! Most of our graduate courses start at 4:00 pm or later. Many of our students work full-time and take afternoon and evening courses. In addition, many companies pay for their employees' tuition. Your graduate advisor will work with you to design a plan of study which maintains high academic standards while still allowing you to meet work and family obligations.

8) *What GPA is required for admission to the master's program? Do I need to take the GRE?*

- You must have an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 for admission to the MSEE program, and 3.0 for admission to the MSSE program.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is needed if your undergraduate GPA was below 3.0, or if your undergraduate degree was granted outside the US and Canada, or if your undergraduate institution is not accredited.
- If the GRE is required, you must obtain a score of at least 650 on the quantitative portion, which is equivalent to a score of 151 under the new GRE format.

9) *What does it take to earn a doctoral degree?*

- All doctoral students must meet the following requirements:
 - You must earn at least 90 credit hours beyond your bachelor's degree.
 - You must complete at least 30 credit hours of dissertation credits.
 - You must pass a qualifying exam covering fundamental math and engineering topics.
 - You must pass a candidacy exam to propose and defend your planned doctoral research.
 - You must complete substantial, original, innovative, and independent dissertation research.
 - You must complete a written doctoral dissertation, and orally defend your dissertation.
 - You must publish your dissertation research in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Requirements for the Master's-to-Doctoral Option (if you already have a master's degree):
 - You must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of course work beyond the master's degree.
- Requirements for the Bachelor's-to-Doctoral Option (if you do not yet have a master's degree):
 - You must complete a minimum of 39 credit hours of course work beyond the bachelor's degree.

10) *What GPA is required for admission to the doctoral program? Do I need to take the GRE?*

- Your master's GPA must be 3.25 or greater, and your bachelor's GPA must be 3.0 or greater.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all applicants. You must obtain a score of at least the 80th percentile on the quantitative section, and at least 3.5 in analytical writing.

11) *What are the application deadlines?*

- All application materials must be on file in the Office of Graduate Admissions at least six weeks prior to the start of the academic term of desired admission.

12) *Whom should I contact if I need more information?*

- For the MSEE and D.Eng. degrees, contact Professor Dan Simon at d.j.simon@csuohio.edu.
- For the MSSE degree, contact Professor Yongjian Fu at y.fu@csuohio.edu.

13) *How do I apply?*

The application process is almost entirely electronic. See www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/admissions.

14) How to apply for graduation?

- Undergraduate:
 - Schedule an appointment with an advisor.
- Graduate:
 - Complete Program of Study form and submit it to the EECS department.
 - Graduation application forms can be found at Campus 411.
 - Complete the form and pay the fee at the Bursar's Office.
 - Attach the receipt to the graduation application form.
 - Submit the form to the registrar's office.

15) Who can apply for OPT/CPT?

- Curricular Practical Training:
 - Please refer to the following link for information on how to apply for a CPT:
<https://www.csuohio.edu/international/curricular-practical-training>
- Optional Practical Training:
 - Please refer to the following link for information on how to apply for an OPT:
<https://www.csuohio.edu/international/optional-practical-training>

16) Thesis

- Find a faculty member of the EECS department who is willing to be your guide for the thesis. You and the faculty member should agree on the scope and deliverables for the thesis.
- The thesis form is available from the Graduate College or by selecting the link below. You should complete this form in consultation with your thesis advisor. The completion of the form requires you and your advisor to form a thesis committee.
- Submit the completed form to the department office for approval by the Chair before it is submitted for the graduate college approval. Once these approvals are in place, the necessary permission will be given by the EECS department office to register for EEC 699.
- Once your thesis defense is completed, request your advisor to submit a grade to the department Chair.
- Please consult the Graduate College for more details about the thesis procedure.
- Download the <https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/proposalform.pdf>
- If you choose the Thesis Option, you will need 22 hrs. of electives including the analytical course. You should register for EEC 699 under the supervision of a faculty member as described above. You will need to pass the Final Oral Defense conducted by a Thesis Committee before a grade can be assigned.
- A quick review of the submission process to assist students is available. At-A-Glance Submission Reminder for Thesis (<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/At-A-Glance.pdf>) . For more in-depth instructions, visit the graduate college's web page on thesis format guidelines (<https://www.csuohio.edu/grad-college/thesis-dissertation-format-guidelines>).

17) Petition

- Graduate Students
 - If your Petition request involves a course in which you are currently enrolled or have previously taken, an instructor's statement must be provided. If your request is due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical issues for you or a family member, death, work related, financial, etc.) a dated and signed statement from the appropriate professional (attorney, doctor, dentist, employer, etc.) on official letterhead paper must accompany the petition. DO NOT indicate "Available upon request".
 - Degree-seeking, Certificate and Licensure graduate students should submit their petition with the instructor's statement (if required) along with supporting materials to their faculty advisor for processing at the departmental level prior to review by the Graduate College Petitions Committee.
 - Non-Degree graduate students should submit their completed petition with an instructor's statement (if required) and any supporting materials to the College of Graduate Studies. Faculty advisor and Program Committee recommendations are not required. For an academically dismissed Non-Degree Student seeking readmission after one calendar year (12 months) has elapsed, or seeking early readmission before one year has elapsed from the time of dismissal, a recommendation from the Director of the Graduate Program in which the student wishes to take classes is required before action will be taken by the Graduate College Petitions Committee. Please be advised that the University Graduate Council has determined that poor academic performance on a midterm examination or on other course requirements does not constitute sufficient grounds for granting a student a late withdrawal from a course.
 - The Graduate Student Petition Form (<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/petitionform.pdf>) must be completed and signed by the student and then forwarded to the instructor and/or the department with the necessary/supporting documentation.
- Undergraduate Students
 - Undergraduate Students must consult an advisor at the Undergraduate Advising Office FH 332.

18) Program Transfer

- A student who has been admitted to a graduate degree program at Cleveland State University may request to transfer to another CSU graduate program. The student should meet with his/her current graduate advisor, current graduate program director, and the graduate program director of the "new" graduate degree program, before submitting the Program Transfer Request Form (<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/TransferRequest.pdf>).
- After consulting his/her advisor the student should complete the boxed portion of the form and submit the form to the appropriate office, (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents of the U.S. to Graduate Admissions Office, Rhodes Tower West and International Students to CISP) respectively.

19) Credit by Exam

- Students can obtain credit for the preparatory courses by taking an examination with the permission of the EECS Graduate Program Committee (GPC). Exams will be offered the week before fall and spring semester each year. The credit by exam fee must be paid and the Graduate Credit by Examination form (<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/media/registrar/documents/creditByExam.pdf>) must be submitted to the GPC at least two weeks before the first day of class. An exam can be attempted only once per course.