

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**  
**Electrical Engineering Program**

*This document is subject to change. For the most recent revision, please see the ECE Department website*

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## **1. Overview of the ECE Department**

Welcome to San Diego State University! The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering offers a variety of courses in different areas of specializations in the Electrical Engineering Master's Program. These areas include Communication Systems, Computer Networks, Electromagnetic Systems, Signal Processing, VLSI Systems, Power Systems and Control and Embedded Systems. The mission of the Electrical Engineering Graduate Program is to provide a high quality education with a focus on hands-on research and scholarly activities to train competent engineers for the local industry to take the lead in design and innovation in San Diego area. Graduate students are prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century and will be ready to take important roles in the industry to be leaders and entrepreneurs. The existence of Ph.D. programs at SDSU gives opportunities to our MSEE graduates to pursue their education towards Ph.D. degrees and be ready to assume more important roles in industry and academia.

## 2. Faculty Members

The ECE Department consists of very active faculty members who are teaching and conducting research in various areas. The list of faculty members is given as below. To know more about their area of research and teaching, please contact them individually.

	<b>Dr. Baris Aksanli</b>	<b>Embedded Systems</b>
	<b>Dr. Amir Alimohammad</b>	<b>VLSI Wireless Communications</b>
	<b>Dr. Ashkan Ashrafi</b>	<b>Graph Signal Processing Biomedical Signal Processing Estimation Theory</b>
	<b>Dr. Ege Engin</b>	<b>Electromagnetic Interference Signal Integrity</b>
	<b>Dr. Madhu Gupta</b>	<b>RF Electronics and Wireless Communication</b>
	<b>Dr. Ke Huang</b>	<b>VLSI, Machine Learning Data Mining. Computer Aided Design</b>

	<b>Dr. Sunil Kumar</b>	<b>QoS-Aware Wireless Networks Error Resilient Video Compression Multimedia Communication Image Processing</b>
	<b>Dr. Chris Mi</b>	<b>Power Electronics and Electric Drives Battery Management Systems Wireless Power Transfer</b>
	<b>Dr. Santosh Nagaraj</b>	<b>Communication Systems</b>
	<b>Dr. Duy Nguyen</b>	<b>Wireless Communication</b>
	<b>Dr. Yusuf Ozturk</b>	<b>Mobile Computing Wireless Networks</b>
	<b>Dr. Reza Sabzehgar</b>	<b>Power Electronics Smart Grid Renewable Energies</b>

	<p><b>Dr. Mahasweta Sarkar</b></p>	<p><b>Wireless Data networks Wireless Health Green Networks</b></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Sridhar Seshagiri</b></p>	<p><b>Nonlinear Control Applications to Energy Systems</b></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Satish Sharma</b></p>	<p><b>Electromagnetics Antennas</b></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Ying Khai-Teh</b></p>	<p><b>Microelectronics</b></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Hakan Töreyn</b></p>	<p><b>Electronics and System Design</b></p>
	<p><b>Dr. Lal Tummala</b></p>	<p><b>Control, Robotics Embedded Systems</b></p>

### 3. Rules and Policies

Every classified graduate student admitted into the Electrical Engineering program at San Diego State University can obtain an MS degree by following two options: **Plan A (thesis option) or Plan B (project option).**

#### *Plan A: Thesis Option*

Students selecting Plan A must complete 21 units of coursework (7 courses), 6 units of EE797 "Research" (typically as two 3-unit EE797 "Research", taken in two different semesters) under the supervision of a full-time ECE professor and, after advancement to candidacy, 3 units of EE799A "Thesis". A completed thesis in a required format shall be submitted to the university. An oral defense of the thesis is required. Plan A students cannot receive credit for taking EE798.

#### *Plan B: Project Option*

Students selecting Plan B must complete 27 units of approved coursework (9 courses) and 3 units of EE798 (Project). An oral presentation of the project is required. Plan B students cannot take and receive credit for EE797, EE799A and EE799B. Selection of Plan B is contingent upon certain conditions that are explained later in this handbook.

### 4. Program of Study (POS)

Before meeting with the department Graduate Advisor, each classified student should prepare a Program of Study. The POS form and Course Selection Guidelines are provided on the ECE Department website <https://electrical.sdsu.edu/msee.php>. The guidelines given below should be followed when preparing the POS:

#### *General*

- Core courses must be taken in the first year of the program.
- No more than four (4) 500 level courses are accepted for the graduate program.
- Other courses may also be taken for credit under the depth area, subject to the approval of the Graduate Advisor.
- Plan A students are allowed to take one course from outside the ECE Department, with the approval of their thesis advisor and the Graduate Advisor.
- Plan B students are **NOT** allowed to take courses from outside the ECE Department.
- All students **MUST** choose Plan A (Thesis). Under the following circumstances, students can choose Plan B (Project):
  - They are already in Plan A but for some compelling reasons they cannot continue

under Plan A. The thesis advisor will decide whether a student can switch to Plan B or not, by consulting with the Graduate Advisor.

- They cannot find a professor who is willing to advise them. In this case, students **MUST** get the signature of three professors including all professors in their declared area of specialization indicating that they are not available or willing to advise the student (Declaration of Unavailability to Advise Thesis (DUAT)).
- Plan B students **MUST** take EE798 (Project) under the supervision of a professor as the project advisor. The project will be evaluated and approved by the project advisor and the second member of the project committee in a 30 minute presentation session.
- Plan B students can enroll in the project (EE798) only after completing 21 units and having a POS on file.
- EE797, EE799A and EE799B cannot be used in Plan B. If students switch from Plan A to Plan B, they need to remove EE797, EE799A and EE799B from their POS and take 6 units of regular courses and 3 units of EE798, with the approval of the Graduate Advisor.
- Only students in Plan A (Thesis) can use CPT.
- ***The POS is required for advancement to candidacy, switch to Plan B, reduce course load and Curricular Practical Training (CPT).***

#### ***Plan A: Thesis Option***

- Declare a depth area.
- Take four (4) courses in the depth area including the core course. **(12 units)**.
- Take two breadth courses: **(6 units)**.
- Take one course either from the depth area or as a breadth course. **(3 units)**.
- Register for six units of EE797 (research) and three units of EE799A (thesis): **(9 units)**.
- Credit is not given for EE798 for Plan A students.

#### ***Plan B: Project Option***

- Declare a depth area.
- Submit the Declaration of Unavailability to Advise Thesis (DUAT) form signed by three professors in the declared area or the consent of the thesis advisor.
- Take six (6) courses in the depth area including the core course(s). **(18 units)**.
- Take three breadth courses: **(9 units)**.
- Take EE798 (Project) advised by one professor. **(3 units)**.

## 5. Transfer Courses

Up to three courses (9 units) may be transferred from another accredited institution, another department or San Diego State University Extended Studies program. All credits earned in other universities, including foreign universities and San Diego State University extension courses, are subject to approval by the Graduate Advisor and Graduate Dean. Credit earned by correspondence, by examination, or by extension at other institutions is not accepted as satisfying advanced degree requirement.

## 6. Grade Point Average/ Grades

Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 (B) must be maintained in:

- All courses listed on the official degree Program of Study
- All courses, 300-level and above, taken at San Diego State University concurrently with or subsequently to the earliest course listed on the official degree program, including the courses accepted for transfer credit.

Further, students should be aware of the university restrictions for the degree program. They are:

- No transfer or extension credit may be used to improve the grade point average of the courses completed at San Diego State University whether computed to determine the average or the overall average.
- No grades in which final grade below “C” (2.0) was earned may be used to satisfy the requirements of the master’s degree.
- 500 level courses graded Credit/No Credit are not acceptable to satisfy the master’s degree program unless they are offered as Credit/No Credit courses only.
- At least 70 percent of the units used to fulfill the minimum requirements on master’s degree program must be letter graded.
- A course completed prior to seven years of the date that the official master’s degree program is approved cannot be listed on the program

## 7. Advancement to Candidacy

A student is eligible for Advancement to Candidacy after having completed at least 12 semester units of the **Official Program (POS)** with a GPA of 3.0 or better. In addition, the student must have completed all the undergraduate deficiencies, been recommended for Advancement of Candidacy by the Graduate Advisor, and approved for Advancement to Candidacy by the Graduate Council.

## **8. Procedure for Enrolling in EE797 (Plan A)**

1. In consultation with a full-time ECE Department faculty member, define your thesis title. Only graduate students who are in good academic standing may enroll in EE797.
2. Write an outline proposal of the project or research to include goals, design activities, level of effort, and timetable.
3. Pick up the EE797 Research form from the ECE Department. Take this form and the proposal to your supervising instructor for their review and signature of approval. Instructor's approval means that facilities and his/her time are available to support the project.
4. Bring this form along with the POS and the proposal to the Graduate Advisor for approving signature. Graduate Advisor's approval states that all requirements have been met and recommendation for the student to take research or project.
5. Submit the form and proposal to the ECE Department for final approval by the ECE Department Chair.

## **9. Procedure for Enrolling in EE798 (Plan B)**

1. After switching to Plan B (see Section 4 above), the student must form a project committee comprising the chair of the committee (advisor) and another professor from the ECE Department.
2. Write one-page proposal of the work that will be done during the project. The chair of the project committee (advisor) must approve the abstract.
3. Pick up the EE798 Project form from the department office, fill it out and get the signature of the project advisor and the second member of the project committee.
4. Bring this form along with the proposal to the Graduate Advisor for approving signature. Graduate Advisor's approval states that all requirements have been met and the student can take the project.
5. After the end of the semester in which the project is taken, the student must arrange for a 30 minute presentation before the project committee. At the end of the presentation, the student should present the committee members with the Project Approval Form (PAF) and committee members should sign it if they are satisfied by the presentation. Otherwise, the student must continue working on the project and the project advisor may require the student to take EE798 again in the following semester or give the student a grade "I" so that the student can finish the project in a short period of time.
6. The student will receive a Cr/NC grade for EE798, which will be given by the project advisor.

## 10. Procedures to enroll in EE799A (Plan A)

All students presenting a thesis must follow the procedures discussed below. The procedures listed below are presented in the order to be accomplished, although some procedures may be handled concurrently.

1. Establish the thesis committee and title in consultation with your Faculty Advisor.
2. Pick up the Appointment of Thesis/Project Committee form from the Graduate Division. (Student must have an approved Program of Study on file.)
3. Obtain the signatures of committee members then turn form into the ECE Department for the Graduate Advisor's signature.
4. Once all signatures are obtained, turn in the Appointment of Thesis/Project Committee form to the Graduate Division. (Note: Student must be advanced to candidacy in order to turn the form in.) Graduate Division will then contact you to enroll into Thesis EE 799A.
5. File an Application for Graduation (on the WebPortal).
6. Read and follow formatting regulations.
7. Write and edit the manuscript.
8. Submit a Report of Final Examination or Thesis Defense for and signature page to the ECE Department.
9. Submit the manuscript for format review.
10. Go through the format review process.
11. Submit approved manuscript for thesis processing to Montezuma Publishing.

For details, please refer to the website: <http://gra.sdsu.edu/>.

## 11. Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

### *Background*

Curricular Practical Training is defined as any required or optional internship that is an **integral** part of the established curriculum for a program of study. Only internships that are directly related to the course curriculum qualify as curricular practical training and can be either an optional or required part of the program. It should be noted that the CPT is a **privilege** not a **right** for international students.

### *General Requirement*

Be in good standing by having a SDSU, overall and program GPA of at least 3.0 and has made progress towards the degree. Note that progress towards the degree implies that a student has his/her Program of Study (POS) on file and is enroll in EE799A or EE799B to complete the

thesis (Plan A). **Students can only use the CPT in the first semester in which they are enrolled in EE799B.** Student must enroll in EE795 (one unit). Plan B students are **NOT** allowed to use CPT, whatsoever. If students switches from Plan A to Plan B in a semester, they will **NOT** be allowed to use CPT starting the next semester.

### ***Summer CPT***

Only Plan A students can use summer CPT. The student must have completed at least 18 units of coursework and enroll in EE795 (one unit) in one of the summer sessions. Students may sign up for up to 40 hours per week during summer. Summer CPT **MUST** be approved by students' thesis advisors. Out-of-state internship locations are allowed during summer.

### ***Academic Year CPT***

In an academic year, students who meet the General Requirement mentioned above and the criteria below can work up to 20 hours per week, unless they have a written consent from their thesis advisor. The following criteria are the requirement for 20 hours per week CPT:

- Have received a satisfactory grade in at least 21 units of coursework in the Program of Study and a RP or CR in 6 units of Research. Have at least 75% of the thesis report completed. This will require written approval by the thesis advisor to the Graduate Advisor. Students who enroll in EE799B are qualified for the CPT provided that they have enrolled in EE799B for the first time.
- For Plan B students: CPT is **NOT** allowed.
- The location of the internship must be within driving distance from SDSU during the academic year.

Please note that for using the CPT in each semester (including summer), you need to obtain separate offer letters stating the beginning and ending dates of the internships. Please look at SDSU Academic Calendar to indicate the correct beginning and ending dates of each semester.

### ***Content of the Offer Letters***

Offer letter must contain the beginning and ending dates of the internship, the job description and the pay rates (per hour). The letter must be original and written on company letterhead. For each working period (Summer, Fall or Spring semester) a separate letter must be provided.

### ***Application and Processing Time Periods***

There is no specific application period for the CPT. Students who satisfy the aforementioned requirements must allow enough time after obtaining the job offer for administrative processes as follows:

- Give the offer letter to the ECE Department. The Graduate Advisor will review the letter and make a decision on whether the student satisfies the requirements or not. If the student is eligible for the CPT, the Graduate Advisor will write the recommendation letter.
- Once the recommendation letter is ready, you will be notified by the ECE Department. Then you can enroll in EE795 (adding after the add/drop deadline will require a petition to add EE795 late and could take an additional 7-10 business days)
- Contact the International Student Center (ISC) for an appointment (619-594-1982)
- Pick up the recommendation letter from the ECE Department and take it, along with a valid passport, I-94 Form, SEVIS I-20, complete address of the company and, if possible, the job offer letter to ISC for final approval (2-3 business days).

Plan ahead as there are no same day appointments and the process could take as long as 5-7 business days! The employment may not begin until the training has been authorized. ***Under no circumstances will the CPT be backdated to include illegal work done before it was authorized.*** SDSU follows the United States Immigration Law on the CPT. For more information about the law please see the Immigration and Custom Enforcement website.

Additional information may be found on the International Student Center web site <http://www.isc.sdsu.edu/>.

## **12. Responsible Conduct of Research (CPT) and Plagiarism**

Training in RCR, plagiarism and required regulatory considerations should occur early in a student's progression through the program. Students involved in teaching may need to be prepared to articulate and enforce policies related to RCR and plagiarism in their classrooms and syllabi.

There are multiple online resources available from the Division of Research Affairs that provide training in RCR, as well as regulatory procedures, e.g. the protection of human subjects, that may be required prior to the conduct of certain research. Please visit the following pages for more information:

<https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/researchaffairs/ethicstraining.aspx>

<http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/Grad1617/018%20University%20Policies.pdf>

University Policies relating to cheating and plagiarism are described by the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities and in the Graduate Bulletin:

[http://go.sdsu.edu/student\\_affairs/srr/cheating-plagiarism.aspx](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/srr/cheating-plagiarism.aspx)

All students must prepare a Turnitin report of their theses to the department. The thesis advisors are responsible to evaluate the reports and make sure that the report does not have more than 15% match with the existing documents. The thesis advisors will be responsible to submit the reports with the signed Theses Originality Attesting Form (TOAF) to the department.