

Energy, Environmental, & Chemical Engineering, PhD (EECE)

The doctoral degree requires a total of 72 credits beyond the bachelor's degree. Of these, a minimum of 36 credits must be graduate course work, and a minimum of 30 credits must be doctoral thesis research units. At most, 12 graduate credits in a graduate program from another university may be counted as transfer credits toward the required 36 units of coursework. Core course credits cannot be transferred unless a student has taken the same courses in EECE during MS/MEng study. PhD students can apply for transfer credit by submitting a formal petition to the department through the Transfer Credit Request Form after passing the qualifying exam.

To be admitted to candidacy, students must have completed at least 18 credits at Washington University, have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.25, and pass the qualifying examination. To be eligible to take the qualifying exam, students must complete the core curriculum, maintain a 3.25 GPA as described in the EECE PhD handbook, and match with a permanent advisor. All students are required to enroll in the department seminar every semester. After passing the qualifying exam, students will complete the Mentored Teaching Experience (MTE) generally in their second and/or third year. Within 18 months after the qualifying exam (generally in their third year), students must form their Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and successfully defend their thesis proposal.

After a successful proposal defense, students should provide their research updates through annual meetings or reports with their thesis committee until their graduation. While conducting doctoral research, students should perform in a professional manner in their research lab and/or office setting and be in compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements for their research projects. Upon completion of their dissertation, students must present their dissertation research in a public forum and successfully defend the dissertation before their thesis committee.

Students admitted to a PhD program in McKelvey Engineering must maintain full-time continuous enrollment throughout the approved length of their programs. McKelvey PhD programs are to be completed within six years under normal conditions. For more detailed guidelines, please refer to the EECE doctoral studies handbook available on the EECE Graduate Degree Programs webpage.