Materials Science & Engineering, PhD (IMSE)

The Materials Science and Engineering doctoral degree requires a minimum of 72 credits beyond the bachelor's degree, with a minimum of 36 credits being graduate coursework (including the IMSE curriculum requirements as outlined in the IMSE Doctoral Handbook) and 18 to 36 credits of doctoral thesis research. To be admitted to candidacy, students must have an overall GPA greater than 3.0, have no more than one grade of B- or below in a core course or IMSE elective, and pass the qualifying examination. All students are required to enroll in the department seminar every semester.

At most, 12 credits of 4000-level courses may be applied toward the required 36 academic credit. Graduate courses may be transferred in (up to 24 credits) but must be evaluated and approved by the IMSE Graduate Studies Committee.

Students enroll in two to three courses each semester and participate in two laboratory rotations, as outlined in the Doctoral Handbook. They complete their qualifying examination in late summer following their first academic year. During their second and third years, students complete their remaining courses and complete their thesis proposal in their fifth semester of study.

After a successful proposal defense, students should provide their research updates through annual meetings with their thesis committee. Upon completion of their dissertation, students must successfully defend the dissertation before their thesis committee.

For more detailed guidelines, please refer to the IMSE Doctoral Handbook available on the IMSE PhD program webpage.

As part of their degree requirements, PhD students must complete a program-defined Mentored Experience Requirement (MER) as per these guidelines. The Mentored Experience Implementation Plan (MEIP) is the written articulation of a program-defined degree requirement for PhD students to engage in mentored teaching activities and/or mentored professional activities, collectively referred to as MERs.