ENGINEERING, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Program mission
The mission of the M.S. in Engineering degree is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge including business and manufacturing aspects; an in-depth research experience at the frontiers of engineering; and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in business/industry and government, or will pursue doctoral degrees.

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences – responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academia and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers
2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications – emanates from the requirement that engineers, researchers and professors must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership
3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes
1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.
2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reggs)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reggs/grad/candidacy)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reggs/grad/graduation-info)

Other information
Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
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<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
<td>Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>TOEFL or IELTS is required for international students</td>
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Admission requirements for Fall entry:
- M.S. students should submit their applications by Jun 1 for financial aid consideration.

Admission requirements for Spring entry:
- M.S. students should submit their applications by Nov 15 for consideration.
The student's advisory committee examines the thesis and conducts a final oral examination. The student must appear for this examination administered by the student's advisory committee. This examination of an M.S. candidate includes the subject matter of course work as well as the thesis.

**Non-thesis option**

Students seeking the non-thesis M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses. Each student must complete 15 credit hours in concentration course work and 15 credit hours in option electives course work.

Each non-thesis student must have a plan of study by the end of the first semester or prior to completing nine credit hours. This plan of study (and all revisions) must be approved by the student's adviser and the assistant dean for graduate affairs of the School of Engineering. The student's adviser must review/approve all course work in advance of enrollment. At least half the didactic credit hours required in the student's program must be designated as 600 level or above. Students may not present courses receiving grades lower than B for fulfilling degree requirements. More than six credits of C grades or lower in the student's transcript will be considered unsatisfactory performance and may result in termination from the program.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Thesis option**

**Concentration component**

EGRE course work (EGRE 500 level or higher or courses approved by the advisory committee): This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student's primary engineering discipline.

**Option electives**

Engineering or science course work (including EGRE, ENGR, EGRB, EGRM, EGMM, CMSC, CLSE, PHYS, MATH, OPER, STAT, CHEM, 500 level or higher or courses approved by the advisory committee): This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student's adviser.

**Directed research component**

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

EGRE 697 Directed Research in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Total Hours 30

The option can be tailored to meet the individual student's academic goals and research interests. Students seeking to take course work and conduct their research in the electrical and computer engineering concentration should contact the graduate program coordinator or department chair of electrical and computer engineering for detailed information about that concentration.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Non-thesis option**

**Concentration component**

EGRE course work (EGRE 500 level or higher or courses approved by the advisory committee): This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student's primary engineering discipline.

**Option electives**
Engineering or science course work (including EGRE, ENGR, EGRB, EGRM, CMSC, CLSE, PHYS, MATH, OPER, STAT, CHEM, 500 level or higher or courses approved by the advisory committee): This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student's adviser.

| Total Hours | 30 |

The option can be tailored to meet the individual student's academic goals and research interests. Students seeking to take course work and conduct their research in the electrical and computer engineering concentration should contact the graduate program coordinator or department chair of electrical and computer engineering for detailed information about that concentration.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

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**Program website:** electrical-and-computer.egr.vcu.edu/graduate (http://electrical-and-computer.egr.vcu.edu/graduate)