Overview:
All ECE students normally take Senior Design Project I and II (EC 463 and EC464) during the senior year. In special cases, however, a student may elect to do a year long Senior Honors Thesis. In these cases, students take EC463 in the fall semester, then substitute one semester of Senior Honors Thesis (EC467) in lieu of EC464 in the spring semester. Thesis work is performed in conjunction with EC463 in the fall semester. To be acceptable as an alternative to EC464, a Senior Thesis must be approved by the ECE Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs, who will ensure that the proposed thesis meets the criteria indicated below.

Note: You can still do a Senior Honors Thesis that does not meet the requirements listed below (i.e., a purely research-based thesis) if you also complete the full Senior Design sequence EC463 and EC464. In such cases, you do not have to meet the indicated criteria, and there does not have to be a connection between your thesis topic and your senior design project. In this latter case, the thesis is arranged directly between the student and faculty advisor without submitting the attached form. You simply register under the EC467 section of your faculty advisor.

Criteria for Substituting EC467 for EC464:
(The following are consistent with ABET accreditation requirements for senior capstone design)

1. The Senior Thesis must involve work in a group or team setting, such as an ECE research lab, BU engineering-based club, or a company outside BU.

2. The work must be conducted under the supervision of an ECE faculty member who will act as advisor.

3. The thesis must include both a design component and a research component. (Engineering design involves the production of something to meet a set of specifications or criteria. Design includes multiple paths to success, decision making, and iteration. Research involves the production of new knowledge or a new understanding of science and/or engineering principles.)

4. The student will be advised by a Thesis Committee consisting of the supervising ECE faculty member, one additional ECE faculty member, and a third member. The latter can be any ENG faculty member, an ECE postdoctoral fellow, or an ECE doctoral student working under the supervision of the supervising faculty member.

5. As part of the thesis work, the student must keep a detailed engineering logbook/research notebook indicating progress and results. This logbook will serve as a written record of progress to the Thesis Committee.

6. At the midpoint of each semester of thesis work (about October 15 and March 8), the student will present an oral progress report to the Thesis Committee. The committee will evaluate the presentation, inspect the student’s design/research logbook, and provide needed feedback and suggestions about the thesis work.

7. The final thesis must be presented to the Thesis Committee via an oral presentation in a public forum (e.g., ECE Day). The Committee will determine the student’s grade for EC467 in lieu of EC464.

8. Following a successful presentation, the student should submit a bound copy of the thesis to the Undergraduate Coordinator of the ECE Department. The thesis should be signed by each of the Committee members and the ECE Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs.

9. To petition the use of Senior Thesis in lieu of EC 467 –fill out the attached form.
For a proposed thesis to be acceptable in lieu of EC464, the attached form must be approved by the ECE Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs in consultation with senior project faculty, the supervising faculty member, and the ECE Undergraduate Committee.

The form should be submitted no later than the second week of classes during the fall semester of senior year.

SENIOR THESIS PETITION FORM to SUBSTITUTE EC467 for EC464 (expand document as needed)

Student: Please fill out this form and submit to the Undergraduate Coordinator in the ECE office, PHO 324:

Note: You do not have to complete this form if you will be taking both EC464 and EC467.

1. State the objective(s) of your thesis:

2. What will constitute the design component of your thesis?

3. List (at a basic, high-level) the specifications for the design component of your thesis:

4. Indicate what testing and evaluation you will perform to ensure that your design meets specifications?

5. What will constitute the research component of your thesis, e.g., describe the basic science, math, or engineering questions will you attempt to answer:

6. Provide details about the team setting in which the thesis will be performed, including (if possible) specific individuals with whom you will work:

Approved: ________________________________ Date: ______________
ECE Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs

Not Approved ________________________________ Date: ______________
Reasons:
