ECE PhD Degrees Offered

- Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering
- Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Engineering

Post-BS PhD (64 credits total)
32 credits of graduate level courses (8 courses/ 4 must be ECE courses)
Minimum of 16 credits of research (EC900/EC991)
TPC requirement: 4 ECSXX and EC7XX courses with GPA of 3.7 or larger

Post Masters PhD (32 credits total)
8 credits of ECE 500 and 700 level courses (2 courses)
Minimum 8 credits of research (EC900/EC991)
TPC requirement: 2 ECSXX and EC7XX courses with GPA of 3.7 or larger.

PhD Timeline

✓ Achieve Candidacy (within 12 or 15 months)
✓ Prospectus Defense (within 2 years of candidacy)
✓ Final Defense (within 5 years of candidacy)

Candidacy (TPC and RPC)

Technical Preparation Criterion (TPC)
Students are required to obtain a GPA ≥ 3.7 in the ECE courses used to fulfill TPC in order to achieve PhD candidacy. At least one of them should have a significant component involving formulation, analysis, and solution of mathematical models.

Post-bachelor’s PhD Students are required to take 4 ECE graduate courses. TPC must be satisfied within the first 3 full academic semesters in order to achieve PhD candidacy. First year students typically take 3 courses or 2 courses + 4 research credits in the fall and 2 courses + 4 research credits in the spring.

Post-master’s PhD Students are required to obtain a GPA ≥ 3.7 in 2 ECE graduate courses. TPC must be satisfied within the first 2 full academic semesters in order to achieve PhD candidacy.

Research Preparation Criterion (RPC)
All first year PhD Students are required to pass a ~1.5 hour oral examination at the end of the spring semester their first year in the PhD program. Three ECE faculty members (not including the advisor) assess the research abilities of the student in the context of a recent research article from the student’s intended field of PhD research. Students who do not pass the RPC on their first attempt are allowed a second attempt later that same summer. RPC must be satisfied by the end of that summer in order to achieve PhD candidacy.

Academic teaching practicum

ECE students are required to TA for two semesters as part of their academic training, typically during their second year. Students are not paid by the department when they do their TA training.

TA assignments are made by the associate chairs for grad and undergrad programs. Students that entered the program as an RA or with external fellowships are assigned by their research advisor in consultation with the associate chairs for undergraduate and PhD programs.

Responsible conduct of research (RCR)

PhD students are required to take the responsible conduct of research training after candidacy and before prospectus, typically in year two and three.
Prospectus defense

Prospectus defense should take place within 2 years of achieving candidacy, typically in year 3. When candidacy, TA, RCR and Prospectus are fulfilled, the student has reached Post-Prospectus status. After prospectus, students should meet yearly with their prospectus committee to go over progress and advise the student. Students and committee will sign off on an advising sheet that will go into the students file.

Salary structure and milestones

Students will have three different salaries as they progress through the program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Base Pay</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-candidacy status</td>
<td>$35,010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD candidate status</td>
<td>$36,760</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post prospectus status</td>
<td>$38,511</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading of research

All research credits are graded Pass/Fail:
- EC900 Pre-prospectus Research (P/F)
- EC991 Post-prospectus Research (P/F)

Additional Resources


Anna Swan – ECE Associate Chair of Doctoral Programs, swan@bu.edu, (617) 353-1275

Christine Ritzkowski – Academic Programs Manager, critzk@bu.edu, (617) 353-1048

Graduate Programs Office Administration (617) 353-9760

Stacey Herman – Director, Graduate Programs, smherman@bu.edu

Kirstie Miller - Director of Professional Education & Corporate Relations, kimiller@bu.edu

Andrew C. Butler- Assistant Director, Enrollment Services, acbutler@bu.edu

Anthony Morejon-Assistant Director, Financial Aid, abmore@bu.edu

Denise Joseph- LEAP Program & Student Relations Manager, dejoseph@bu.edu

David Apostol- Data Analyst/Graduate Records, dapostol@bu.edu

Linda Hession - Senior Program Coordinator, hession@bu.edu

BU wide Student Resources- [http://www.bu.edu/students/](http://www.bu.edu/students/)

Fellowship applications

Jeffrey Berg (617) 358-8061 berg@bu.edu - Director, National & Intl. Scholars. Works with students on fellowship applications and with faculty on recommendation letters.

Professional development

Sarah Hokanson Director - Professional Dev & Postdoctoral Affairs Runs professional development workshops open to PhD students [http://www.bu.edu/postdocs](http://www.bu.edu/postdocs)

Center for teaching and learning has some programs focused on graduate students [https://www.bu.edu/ctl/programs/](https://www.bu.edu/ctl/programs/)

Mental Health

Behavioral health resources for students: [http://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/behavioral-resources/](http://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/behavioral-resources/)

ISSO Contact

Monica Rodriguez, Advisor (617) 353-3565, mrodri@bu.edu