



Department of
Industrial Engineering

Industrial Engineering
Graduate Program Manual
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University of
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Swanson School
of Engineering

engineering.pitt.edu/industrial

Disclaimer

The information contained herein is provided for your reference. Please be advised that University, School, and Department policies and requirements are subject to periodic changes. The Department of Industrial Engineering reserves the right to correct and/or amend the information without advance notice. For additional information about graduate study at the University of Pittsburgh, Department of Industrial Engineering, please contact the graduate program director at (412) 624-9830 or send e-mail to gradie@pitt.edu.



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1.0 Introduction

The Department of Industrial Engineering offers a professional, 30-credit Master's degree program, as well as a 72-credit Doctoral degree program (or at least 42 credits beyond a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering) for those interested in research or academic careers. The department also offers a dual degree MS/MBA program and a dual degree MSIE/MS in Supply Chain Management in cooperation with the Katz Graduate School of Business.

This document describes all issues relevant to the graduate program. Please note that the department frequently updates its policies regarding the graduate program and while every attempt is made to keep this document current, students are strongly advised to check with the graduate program director if there are questions or concerns.



2.0 Admission Requirements and Procedures

For admission to full graduate status, students must have an undergraduate degree with at least a B average (i.e., a GPA greater than 3.00/4.00) in engineering, mathematics, statistics or one of the natural sciences. Exceptional applicants with degrees in other disciplines such as business, economics, or computer/information sciences may also be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided they have significant relevant work or academic experience and very high academic standing. Regardless of the undergraduate degree, all applicants must have had calculus, matrices and linear algebra, and a calculus-based undergraduate course in engineering probability and statistics before they can be granted full admission. In addition, they are expected to be conversant with at least one programming language (such as C, Java, Python, C++, etc.) and common computer-based productivity tools such as word-processors and spreadsheets. **Admission standards for the Ph.D. program are significantly higher than those for the M.S. program.**

2.1 GRE

All applicants are required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), except for working professionals who are applying to be part-time students, or for applicants graduating with a B.S. in engineering from an ABET accredited program at a reputable U.S. university. Any exceptions must be approved by the graduate program director. There is no minimum score requirement - the GRE scores are considered along with other factors such as grades, class rank, recommendation letters and the quality of the applicant's undergraduate program when making decisions regarding admission and financial assistance.

2.2 TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo

Demonstration of English proficiency is required of applicants with degrees that are from universities outside the United States. For admission to graduate study, the School of Engineering requires a score of (1) at least 550 (213 on the computer-based test; 80 on the Internet-based test) on the TOEFL, (2) at least Band 6.5 on the IELTS, or (3) at least 115 on the *Duolingo* English Test. **This is a university requirement that cannot be waived.** The only exception is if the applicant has already received a degree from an accredited institution in the United States.

2.3 Other Requirements

Applicants must formally apply on-line using the appropriate forms. The application package includes the application form, a complete set of original transcripts from all prior programs of study, at least two letters of recommendation, official GRE and TOEFL scores (where applicable), and an application fee. Applicants may also submit additional documents such as a personal statement, resume, creative work such as papers, etc. in support of their application. Documentation of available finances is also required from accepted international applicants.



2.4 Application Procedure & Deadlines

You must apply on-line, by starting with the following link:

<https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/graduateapplications>

Application deadlines as follows:

- Fall Term: July 1 (domestic applicants), April 1 (international visa seeking applicants)
- Spring Term: November 15 (domestic applicants), October 15 (international visa seeking applicants)
- Summer Term: April 1 (domestic applicants), February 15 (international visa seeking applicants)

Applicants to the Ph.D. program who wish to be considered for graduate assistantships must submit their applications by January 31.



3.0 English Proficiency and Teaching Assistant Certification

In order to understand lectures and to participate successfully in class discussions, graduate students must possess sufficient knowledge of English. All students must demonstrate proficiency in English, either by obtaining acceptable scores on the TOEFL or by virtue of a degree from an institution in the United States. The university mandates that all students with a TOEFL score less than 100, IELTS score below 7.0 or Duolingo score below 130 must take the Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency upon arrival. If remedial courses in English as a foreign language are recommended as an outcome of the Michigan Test, the department requires that these recommendations be followed.

In keeping with the University Policy on Certification of English Language Fluency for Teaching, all students who are not native speakers of English and are awarded graduate assistantships are required to take a separate English test upon arrival. Individuals who do not perform satisfactorily on the test are given non-teaching assignments and are required to take special course work in English until they attain passing scores. An unsatisfactory score at the time of reappointment is sufficient cause for non-renewal.

The Department of Industrial Engineering requires that all international students who intend to pursue a doctoral degree take this test upon arrival.



4.0 Tuition and Fees

Current information on tuition and fees may be found by visiting the appropriate University of Pittsburgh web site at <http://www.ir.pitt.edu/tuition/index.html>.



5.0 Financial Assistance

Admission to the graduate program does not imply the granting of financial aid. However, most full-time doctoral students are supported through teaching/research assistantships; these awards are based exclusively on academic merit. **It is impossible for faculty members or administrators to meaningfully predict the chances of a specific applicant receiving an assistantship** - this depends on a number of factors such as the anticipated availability of funds, the quality of the other applicants, specific departmental requirements, etc. The department welcomes applications for assistantships from individuals with outstanding credentials; however, it should be kept in mind that these awards are highly competitive. In general, awards are made only to students pursuing a Ph.D., and applicants with a terminal Master's degree objective are not awarded graduate assistantships. All awards are made for the academic year, and the amount of the stipend is set by the university; the Office of International Services considers the academic year stipend for a full assistantship (20 hours per week) as being adequate for issuing documentation in support of student visa applications. Some extra support over the summer term is almost always provided in the form of a stipend; however, such support is in general not guaranteed. While renewals are not automatic, barring unforeseen circumstances assistantships are generally renewed as long the student (a) performs well both academically and in assistantship duties, and (b) makes satisfactory progress towards his or her degree objective. Assistantships are typically awarded only at the beginning of the Fall term, although awards starting in the Spring term are sometimes available.

Final assistantship award decisions are made by the department chair based upon the recommendations of the graduate committee. Individual faculty members cannot make offers or commitments directly to students. Applicants interested in working with a specific faculty member should state this in their applications, and every consideration will be given to their preferences. In the event that an assistantship is declined, it is offered to the next person on the waiting list. Applicants have the option to explicitly state in their applications that they wish to be considered for admission without financial aid. In such cases, the department will still consider the applicants and if they are academically acceptable, offer them the option of trying to arrange for alternative financing for their studies; typically, this must be done by May 1.

5.1 Deadlines

Applications from those who wish to be considered for financial aid should be received no later than January 31 for the following Fall term. Typically, award decisions are made in March and awardees have until April 15 to accept or decline offers; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to decide sooner. Since the number of applications received is usually quite large, applicants should note that it is often hard to respond promptly to individual e-mail queries regarding the status of one's application for aid or inquiries made to individual faculty members.



6.0 General School and University Policies on Graduate Studies

While conforming to the general policies on graduate studies that are set forth by the School of Engineering as well as the University of Pittsburgh, the Department of Industrial Engineering has certain additional policies of its own. These are described in detail in the Sections 8 and 9 for the MS and the Ph.D. program. For detailed university policies please refer to documentation available on-line at <https://www.gradstudies.pitt.edu/academics>, and at <https://catalog.upp.pitt.edu/content.php?catoid=212&navoid=21155> for details on School of Engineering policies.

6.1 Policy on Probation/Dismissal

The university requires that students have a QPA of at least 3.00 in order to obtain a graduate degree. If at the end of any term the student has a term QPA below 3.00 he/she will automatically be placed on probation for the next term. The department monitors student progress to ensure that they are on track to meet this requirement, and enforces the following policies:

A. Full-time students

- If after the end of any full term of classes, the student has a cumulative QPA below 3.00 he/she will be placed on probation.
- If after the end of the following term of classes the student has a QPA that is still below 3.00 he/she will be subject to dismissal/suspension from the program.

B. Part-time students

- If the student has an overall QPA below 3.00 after the completion of 9 credits of course work, he/she will be placed on probation and will remain on probation as long as the QPA is below 3.00.
- If the student has an overall QPA below 3.00 after the completion of 18 credits of course work, he/she will be subject to dismissal/suspension from the program.



7.0 Advising and Registration

The Department of Industrial Engineering is committed to allowing each student the freedom to pursue his or her academic interests and to work with the faculty members of his or her choice. When a student first enrolls in the department, the graduate program director acts as the student's advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to talk with other faculty members and learn more about their academic interests and research projects, so that they can make an intelligent decision on an advisor. They are expected to choose an academic advisor by sometime during the middle of their first term in the department. All students have the right to change advisors at any time.

7.1 Plan of Study

Initially, the graduate program director meets with each incoming student to review his/her background, and together the two decide on the courses that the student will register for in the first term. By the end of the first term each student is expected to have selected an advisor and together, they develop a tentative but complete plan of study for the entirety of the student's program. The department recognizes that this proposed plan may change over time, and the student is therefore not obligated to follow this plan exactly. However, it is something that is meant to help the student plan an academic program. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all program requirements are satisfied prior to graduation; the role of the advisor is to help the student verify this.

7.2 Registration and Course Load

All graduate students are expected to register for a full load of at least 9 credits (or three courses) per term; doctoral students typically carry a heavier load.

7.3 Assistantship Duties

Students supported via full assistantships will be expected to work 20 hours per week on their assistantship duties. With research assistantships, it is possible that the work done by the student might be directly related to his or her dissertation; however, this is not always true and it might happen that the research for the assistantship and the dissertation are on different topics, and in rarer cases, that the faculty supervisor for the assistantship might not be the student's academic advisor.



8.0 Master of Science (M.S.) in Industrial Engineering

The Master's program may be completed with either a thesis option or a non-thesis option. In both cases the student is required to complete a minimum of 30 credits. With the thesis option, 24 credits in coursework are required along with 6-8 thesis credits.

The M.S. program is very flexible and students may either choose to focus on some area, or opt for a more broad-based curriculum with coursework spanning multiple areas. Narrower concentration areas are also available. Terminal Master's student are usually not awarded assistantships, but if they are, it is required that they write a Master's thesis. This requirement is waived only if the student goes on to write a Ph.D. dissertation. The Master's program can usually be completed in 16 months of full-time study or two to three years of part-time study.

8.1 Requirements

Non-thesis option:

- (1) Required Core (**9 credits**)
 - (a) IE 2001: OPERATIONS RESEARCH
 - (b) IE 2005: PROBABILITY & STATISTICS FOR ENGINEERS
 - (c) IE 2006: INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS
- (2) Elective Core: at least two of the following (**6 credits**)
 - (a) IE 2003: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT
 - (b) IE 2007: STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS
 - (c) IE 2088: SIMULATION
 - (d) IE 2100: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS
 - (e) IE 2303: WORK DESIGN
- (3) Another 15 Credits that can be freely chosen from the elective core or other graduate offerings in the department, based on the student's individual interests and in conjunction with the approval of his or her academic advisor. With the advisor's approval, up to 9 of these 15 credits may be obtained from other graduate offerings in the university or at another reputable university.

Thesis option:

- (1) Required Core (**9 credits**)
 - Identical to the non-thesis option
- (2) Elective Core (**6 credits**)
 - Identical to the non-thesis option
- (3) Thesis (**6+ credits**)
- (4) Another 9 credits that can be freely chosen from the elective core or other graduate offerings in the department. One out-of-department elective is permitted with the thesis option.



The Master's thesis must show marked attainment in some field of industrial engineering. Acquisition of the methods and techniques of scientific investigation must also be demonstrated. A faculty member knowledgeable in the student's area of interest (typically, the advisor) must supervise the thesis. The student is required to make an oral presentation to his or her thesis examining committee, which includes the advisor and at least two other departmental faculty members.

Common Requirement: With either option, any student who does not possess an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering MUST select IE 2303 from the elective core.

Students with an undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering or with substantial prior exposure to courses in the core program are expected to substitute such courses with more advanced coursework in the same general area. The student's advisor and/or the graduate program director will make a determination of where this is appropriate.

Graduate Seminar

Master's students may also register for and attend IE 3095: GRADUATE SEMINAR during each term that they are full-time students; however, these credits **cannot** be counted towards the total credit requirements. In order to get a "Satisfactory" grade, attendance at all scheduled seminars is required for students who register for IE 3095.

8.2 M.S. Concentration Areas

While all Master's students are required to satisfy the requirements listed in the previous section, students opting for the non-thesis track can also choose an optional concentration area by judiciously selecting their free electives and courses from the elective core. Currently, the following concentrations are possible:

Data Science

Requirements:

1. IE 2064 Data Science
2. IE 2088 Digital Systems Simulation (Part of IE elective core)

Three courses from following list:

- IE 2007 Statistics and Data Analysis (Part of IE elective core)
- IE 2086 Decision Models
- IE 2082 Linear Optimization
- IE 2097 Financial Engineering
- IE 2065 Statistical Analysis and Optimization
- IE 2062 Data Mining
- IE 2186 Reinforcement learning
- INFSCI 2710 Database Management
- BQOM 2557 Multivariate Data Analysis
- BQOM 2537 Forecasting

Safety Engineering

Requirements:

1. IE 2301 Introduction to Safety Engineering



2. IE 2302 Engineering for Process Safety
3. IE 2303 Work Design (Part of IE elective core)

Two courses from following list:

- IE 2007 Statistics and Data Analysis (Part of IE elective core)
- IE 2076 Total Quality Management
- IE/BIOENG 2725 Design for Injury Prevention
- ENGR 2368 Mining Health and Safety
- ENGR 2633 Minerals Industry Risk Management
- ENGR 2104 Nuclear Operation Safety
- ENGR 2125 Case Studies in Nuclear Codes and Standards
- ENGR 2130 Environmental Issues & Solutions for Nuclear Power
- Other related graduate courses (with prior advisor approval)

Engineering Management

Requirements:

1. IE 2007 Statistics and Data Analysis (Part of IE elective core)
2. IE 2003 Engineering Management (Part of IE elective core)
3. IE 2123 Project Management

Two courses from following list:

- IE 2303 Work Design (Part of IE elective core)
- IE 2076 Total Quality Management
- IE 2102 Lean Six Sigma 1
- IE 2103 Lean Six Sigma 2
- IE 2086 Decision Models
- IE 2122 Fundamentals of Systems Engineering
- Appropriate graduate courses in Finance, Marketing or Organizational Behavior from KGSB (with prior advisor approval)

8.3 Healthcare Systems Engineering (HSE) Graduate Certificate

The **HSE** certificate is offered as an extra option along with the Master's program. The certificate is administered jointly by the Department of Industrial Engineering and the Department of Health Policy and Management within Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health. It provides rigorous, multi-disciplinary training for individuals interested in pursuing careers in healthcare systems process and management engineering. The HSE certificate option is open to all Master's students and students must apply and be accepted before they join the department. For IE graduate students, the MS degree in IE along with the HSE certificate requires a total of 37-38 credits distributed as follows:

1. Required Core (**9 credits**)
 - (a) IE 2001: OPERATIONS RESEARCH (3 cr.)
 - (b) IE 2005: PROBABILITY & STATISTICS FOR ENGINEERS (3 cr.)
 - (c) IE 2006: INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS (3 cr.)





2. IE Elective Core: two of the following (**6 credits**)
 - a) IE 2003: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT (3 cr.)
 - b) IE 2007: STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (3 cr.)
 - c) IE 2088: SIMULATION (3 cr.)
 - d) IE 2100: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS (3 cr.)
 - e) IE 2303: WORK DESIGN (3 cr.)
3. Required IE Electives (9 **credits**)
 - a) IE 2102: LEAN/ SIX SIGMA (3 cr.)
 - b) IE 2106: OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTHCARE (3 cr.)
 - c) IE 2108: HEALTH SYSTEMS ENGINEERING: QUANTITATIVE ANALYTICS (3 cr.)
4. HPM Courses (**10-11 credits**)
 - a) PUBHLT 2033: FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (1 cr.)
 - b) HPM 2105: INTRODUCTION TO THE US HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM 1 (1 cr.)
 - c) HPM 2106: HEALTH SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP AND PROF. DEVELOPMENT (1 cr.)
 - d) HPM 2220: COST EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS IN HEALTH CARE (1 cr.)
 - e) HPM 2217: CLINICAL DECISIONS ANALYSIS (1 cr.)
 - f) HPM 2207: QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND PATIENT SAFETY (3 cr.)
 - g) HPM Elective (2-3 cr.); needs advisor approval
5. IE 2098: HEALTH SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CAPSTONE PROJECT (**3 credits**)
6. HPM 2050: HEALTH SYSTEMS ENGINEERING SEMINAR (**0 credits**)

NOTE: Students without an undergraduate degree in I.E. are required to select IE 2303 from the elective core.

Students interested in the HSE certificate are strongly encouraged to map out their study plans immediately after enrolling in the department.

8.4 Graduate Co-op Program

The Co-op program provides graduate students, including international graduate students, with an optional work opportunity as part of their education. In addition, it also enables them to earn a reasonable amount of money over a 14-16 week work rotation. While placements cannot be guaranteed, the Swanson School of Engineering has a dedicated co-op office that works with many companies to place students in suitable positions.

Eligibility: The program is open to any full time Master's student after completing two academic terms, as long as he/she is in good academic standing. Typically, the co-op rotation would be over the summer between the first and second years, although it could be also be over the fall term of the second year. SSoE undergraduates who go directly into the program are allowed to co-op the term before starting their graduate degree program as well as the term between their first and second graduate years. In general, the program is not open to full time PhD students unless an exception is granted by both the student's advisor and the graduate program director.

Procedure:

1. All participating students must first obtain approval from the graduate program director and their academic advisor prior to signing up for the program.

2. Students must then sign up officially with the Co-op Program Office, including signing the "Co-op Contract" and agreeing to follow all Co-op rules and policies including payment of the necessary fees.
3. The Co-op Program will coordinate company interviews to place the student in an appropriate position.
4. The students are charged the regular Co-op Fee as well as the other applicable University of Pittsburgh fees. The student also registers for the 1 credit that is covered by the Co-op Fee.
5. The student is required to prepare a short paper describing his/her rotation, including the skills learned and used and its educational relevance. The paper is due within two weeks after completion of the rotation. In addition, the student must also complete the required evaluation forms.
6. Upon acceptance of the paper by the graduate program director, the student receives an "S" grade for the 1 credit. If the paper is not acceptable, an "I" grade is awarded. If an acceptable paper is not received and approved by the graduate program director by the end of the term following the rotation, the student receives a "U" grade and will not be allowed to participate further in the program.

8.5 Transfer Credits

Students may transfer up to 6 credits of graduate coursework taken at the University of Pittsburgh or another recognized institution, even if these courses have been used to fulfill requirements for another graduate degree (credits cannot be transferred if they have been counted against an undergraduate degree). However, such coursework **must** be relevant to Industrial Engineering and complement the student's program of study at the University of Pittsburgh. A determination of this will be made by the graduate program director and may require appropriate documentation of course content for this purpose. For the course credits to transfer the student must have obtained at least a "B" grade in these classes.

8.6 Master's degree with a Ph.D. degree

Since the Master's program without the thesis option is a terminal professional degree program, Ph.D. students are typically not also granted a Master's degree midway through their graduate program. The exception to this is if the student opts for the thesis option, or if the student discontinues his or her doctoral studies and leaves the program, in which case it is possible to apply for the MS degree as long as all requirements for it have been met.



9.0 Ph.D. Program

This section first provides highlights of some relevant University policies, followed by departmental requirements. Once again, detailed University policies are available on-line at <https://catalog.upp.pitt.edu/index.php?catoid=212>.

9.1 Highlights of General University Regulations

Residency Requirement: Students seeking the Ph.D. degree are required to engage in a minimum of one term of full-time doctoral study, which excludes any other employment except as approved by their departments.

Credit Requirements

- According to University regulations, at least 72 credits are required beyond the bachelor's degree (minimum credit requirement)
- If a student already has a Master's degree, no more than 30 credits may be accepted for a master's degree awarded by another institution to meet the minimum credit requirement, i.e., at least 42 credits are required beyond the master's degree.
- In recognition of graduate study *beyond* the master's degree successfully completed elsewhere, no more than 12 additional credits may be accepted at the time of admission to meet the minimum credit requirement.
- No more than 30 credits may be accepted for a previously earned Ph.D. degree in recognition of master's degree work.
- In all cases, at least three terms, or 36 credits, of full-time doctoral study or the equivalent in part-time study must be successfully completed at the University of Pittsburgh.

Preliminary Examination: The preliminary examination is designed to assess the breadth of the student's knowledge of the discipline, the student's achievement during the first year of graduate study, and the potential to apply research methods independently. The form and nature of the examination changes periodically. It is conducted at approximately the end of the first academic year of full-time graduate study, typically in late April or early May. The examination is used to identify those students who may be expected to complete a doctoral program successfully and also to reveal areas of weakness in the student's preparation.

Comprehensive Examination: The Comprehensive Examination is designed to assess the student's mastery of the general field of doctoral study, the student's acquisition of both depth and breadth in the area of specialization within the general field, and the ability to use the research methods of the discipline. The comprehensive examination is usually combined with the overview or prospectus meeting. It should be administered at approximately the time of the completion of the formal course requirements and should be passed at least eight months before the scheduling of the final oral examination and dissertation defense. In no case may the comprehensive examination be taken in the same term in which the student is graduated.

Overview or Prospectus Meeting: Each student must prepare a dissertation proposal for presentation to the doctoral committee at a formal dissertation overview or prospectus meeting. The overview requires the student to carefully formulate a plan and permits the doctoral committee members to provide guidance in shaping the conceptualization and methodology of that plan. The doctoral committee must unanimously approve the dissertation

topic and research plan before the student may be admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree. Approval of the proposal does not imply either the acceptance of a dissertation prepared in accord with the proposal or the restriction of the dissertation to this original proposal.

Admission to Candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree: Admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree constitutes a promotion of the student to the most advanced stage of graduate study and provides formal approval to devote essentially exclusive attention to the research and the writing of the dissertation. To qualify for admission to candidacy, students must be in full graduate status, have satisfied the requirement of the preliminary evaluation, have completed formal course work with a minimum quality point average of 3.00, have passed the comprehensive examination, and have received approval of the proposed subject and plan of the dissertation from the doctoral committee following an overview or prospectus meeting of the committee. In some schools, admission to candidacy is a prerequisite to registration for dissertation credits. Students are informed of admission to candidacy by written notification from the dean, who also states the approved doctoral committee's composition.

Final Oral Examination: The final oral examination in defense of the doctoral dissertation is conducted by the doctoral committee and need not be confined to materials in and related to the dissertation. Any member of the Graduate Faculty of the University may attend and participate in the examination. The date, place, and time of the examination should be published well in advance in the University Times. Other qualified individuals may be invited by the committee to participate in the examination. Only members of the doctoral committee may be present during the final deliberations and may vote on the passing of the candidate. A report of this examination, signed by all the members of the doctoral committee, must be sent to the dean. If the decision of the committee is not unanimous, the case is referred to the dean for resolution. The chair of the doctoral committee should ensure that the dissertation is in final form before requesting signatures of the members of the committee.

9.2 Departmental Course Requirements

In accordance with the University regulations, a minimum of 72 credits is required beyond the undergraduate degree. Of these, at least 18 must come from research directed towards the doctoral dissertation. The student registers for IE 3997: Ph.D. RESEARCH prior to passing the proposal examination (see [Section 9.7](#)) and for IE 3999: DISSERTATION RESEARCH after the proposal has been accepted. At least 12 of the research credits must come from IE 3999.

Currently, the minimum requirements beyond an undergraduate degree are as follows (note that most Ph.D. students actually end up taking more credits than these minimum requirements):





1. Qualifying Core: 12-15 credits
 - (1) IE 2006: INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS
 - (2) IE 2117: FOUNDATIONS OF STATISTICS
 - (3) IE 2081: LINEAR OPTIMIZATION
 - (4) IE 2084: STOCHASTIC PROCESSES

Students focusing on manufacturing must also take

- (5) IE 2011: FUNDAMENTALS OF MICRO AND NANOMANUFACTURING

- Additional Required Coursework (for students without an undergraduate degree in IE): 6 credits
 - (1) IE 2100: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS
 - (2) IE 2088: SIMULATION
- Additional Elective Coursework: 24-33 credits. NOTE: A **total of at least 45** credits of **coursework** are required (**not** including non-pedagogical credits from seminars, internships, projects, independent research, etc.)
- Doctoral & Dissertation Research (IE 3997 and IE 3999): **at least 18** credits

At least 9 credits must come from 3000-level courses or courses taken predominantly by PhD students, and at least 6 credits must be taken from offerings outside the Department of Industrial Engineering with the approval of the student's advisor. All students must also register each term for IE 3095: GRADUATE SEMINAR (1 cr.), although these credits are **not** counted towards the 45-credit pedagogical requirement.

As with the M.S. degree, students with sufficient prior exposure to any of the required courses above (either at the undergraduate level or as part of a prior Master's program) might be exempted from the course. However, the credits associated with the course must be met through alternative coursework (usually, in the same general area). A determination of this is made by the advisor and/or the graduate program director. All other exceptions must be approved by the graduate program director.

All coursework and required research credits must be completed by the end of the student's fourth academic year in the program, and all students continuing in the program beyond this time will be registered only for FTD (full-time dissertation) hours for the remainder of their time in the program.

9.3 Transfer Credits

Students may transfer a maximum of 30 credits of graduate coursework taken at a recognized institution as part of another Master's degree. A determination of what coursework is appropriate for transfer is made by the graduate program director; in general, the number of credits transferred tends to be much lesser than 30, especially when the previous M.S. degree was not in Industrial Engineering. The total credit requirements as well as specific courses that are required are unchanged for transfer students.

9.4 Teaching Requirements for PhD Students

All PhD students should complete the following concentration in Scientific Communication, with two elements: i) Training program, ii) Mentorship-in-practice. Satisfaction of this requirement, or any exceptions, must be approved by the graduate program director.

i) **Training program** requires the completion of the following requirements:

1. Attendance at a minimum of one teaching workshop run by the Pitt Center for Integrating Research, Teaching and Learning (PITT-CIRTL) and approved by the department; see <https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/cirtl/>
2. Attaining a score of at least 4 in the ELI English Comprehensibility test for TAs.
3. ENGR 2050: Technical Writing (open only to international students) or ENGR 2052: Introduction to Technical Communication

ii) **Mentorship-in-practice:** The goal of this requirement is to provide a mentored experience to the PhD students, regardless of their funding support, in classroom-based pedagogy. This requires one term as a TA or as an independent instructor.

9.5 Preliminary Examination

This examination allows the department to assess the student's academic preparation, breadth of knowledge and potential to study and conduct research at the doctoral level. It is given once a year in late April / early May immediately after the end of the Spring term and before classes start for the Summer term. The typical student who enrolls in Fall must take this examination after the first two terms in the program. Students who start in Spring have the option of taking the exam at the end of the term or waiting a year until the next May.

In order to appear in this examination, the student must submit an application in March; the appropriate form is available in the departmental office (1025 Benedum Hall). Applications are evaluated by the entire faculty, who then make a decision on whether or not to approve the student's application. For approval to take the exam, a student is expected to have a good academic record (typically, a GPA of at least 3.67 across the required core courses), an eligible departmental faculty advocate, and demonstrated promise for doing independent research. Currently, the qualifying examination consists of four separate oral exams that each run for 45 minutes to an hour. These exams cover the core areas of (1) Linear Optimization, (2) Stochastic Processes, (3) Statistics & Data Analysis, and (4) Manufacturing Systems. Each exam is conducted by a committee of two to four faculty members.

The entire faculty then meets and discusses each candidate's performance along with the recommendations of the examination committees. Based upon the candidate's performance, his/her academic record, and the student's promise for doctoral research, the faculty votes to assign each candidate to one of three categories: (1) passing (either unconditionally or with certain accompanying requirements), (2) failing and not permitted to retake the exam, and much less commonly, (3) failing, but with permission to retake the test the following year (and possibly, conditional on meeting specified requirements). In any event, a student is allowed no more than two opportunities to take the preliminary examination.

9.6 Examining Committee

After passing the preliminary examination, the doctoral candidate is expected to finalize the general area in which he/she will write a dissertation and an advisor who will guide the dissertation. The student is expected to take whatever additional courses are required to prepare for doctoral research and the dissertation. At the end of the student's second year in the program, the student's advisor and one or two other appropriate faculty members will review the student's academic record and plan of study to ensure that he/she has taken or will take all courses appropriate for the student's area of specialization/research. By some time during the early part of the third year the student (under the guidance of his or her advisor) is expected to appoint a committee consisting of the advisor and a minimum of three to four other members of the graduate faculty. At least two of these other members should be from the Industrial Engineering Department and at least one from outside the department (and this may include appropriate members from outside the University of Pittsburgh). This committee oversees the student's dissertation research and the remainder of his or her Ph.D. program; it will meet at least once each year (and more often if necessary) to follow the progress of the student and make recommendations.

9.7 Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination

The purpose of this examination (which is often taken in conjunction with the proposal examination, typically in the third year) is to test the student's acquisition of breadth as well as depth in the area of specialization, and the ability to use research methods in his or her major area of interest. It is also used to identify any deficiencies in the student's background and suggest remedial work, and to test the student's ability to prepare an acceptable dissertation.

9.8 Dissertation Proposal Examination

The purpose of this examination is to test the soundness and validity of the candidate's research topic, research plans, and methods that are described by the student in an oral presentation. Passing this examination provides the student with an affirmation by the committee that the proposed work when completed will lead to a Ph.D. dissertation. It is expected that the student will take the proposal examination within three academic years after starting the doctoral program. For this examination, the student must write a proposal on the work proposed to be done for the student's Ph.D. dissertation. It should also be accompanied by a comprehensive list of references. The proposal should be self-contained, but it may contain appendices where absolutely necessary.

The examination should be scheduled at least two terms prior to the term in which the student will graduate, in consultation with the committee, and no later than the end of the first term of the student's fourth academic year as a PhD student. The committee should be given copies of the written proposal at least 2 weeks before the examination unless a member agrees to accept it closer to the time of the exam. During the examination (which is about 2 hours long), the student makes a presentation - usually about 45 minutes in length if uninterrupted - covering the main items in the written proposal. The organization of the presentation may vary but typically includes the following sections:

1. Introduction & Background
2. Research Objectives
3. Summary of Prior Work
4. Proposed Research and Methodology
5. Preliminary Results
6. Tentative Time-Line



The committee may interrupt the presentation to ask questions or request a clarification. At the end of the presentation, each committee member in turn asks additional questions that they might have. The committee then makes recommendations for setting the correct scope for the research proposed and/or improving the same.

9.9 Dissertation Defense Examination

After the work on the dissertation and the dissertation document are completed, students are required to defend their work in a final examination. The student should set up a time for the Ph.D. dissertation defense allowing at least 2 hours duration. The student should give the committee copies of the written dissertation at least 3 weeks before the defense unless the members agree to accept it closer to the time of the defense.

For this defense, the student makes a presentation - usually about 45 minutes to an hour in length if uninterrupted - covering the main conclusions of the dissertation research. The presentation is open to the public and anyone who is interested may attend. Anyone may interrupt the presentation to ask questions or request a clarification. At the end of the presentation, the committee chair first asks audience members who are **not** on the committee if they have additional questions. If they do, the candidate first answers all of these questions. Following this, the committee chair requests everyone except the committee members to leave the room and then each of the committee members takes turns asking the candidate questions. At the end of the defense, the student is asked to leave the room and the committee discusses the results of the defense and votes to pass or fail. If a student passes, the student finalizes the dissertation taking into account all requests by the committee for changes and receives the Ph.D. If the student fails, the student can repeat the defense once. However, this is very rare since the student's research advisor will not recommend that the student stand for the defense until he/she is ready. It is expected that the dissertation will lead to at least one paper of publishable quality in a respected technical journal.

9.10 Journal Paper

Prior to graduation all Ph.D. students are required to submit at least one article based on their research for publication in a refereed journal. The paper is typically a collaborative effort by the student and his/her advisor (and possibly, other students and/or committee members as well).



9.11 Ph.D. Program Time Table / Flowchart

The following table presents a typical time chart that students in the Ph.D. program should try to follow – reasonable variations from the schedule shown are entirely acceptable. A copy of this is placed in each student’s academic folder for the benefit of the student and his/her advisor.

EVENT	TYPICAL TIME FRAME
Select an initial academic advisor	Middle of first term
Submit a tentative plan of study	End of first term (updated over time as necessary)
Finish taking qualifying core	By end of second term
Preliminary Exam	End of first year
Review of Academic Record	End of second year
Select Graduate Committee	During the third year
Proposal Exam	During the third year (must be completed by the end of the fall term of the fourth year)
Research credits (IE 3997)	Before end of fall term of fourth year
Research credits (IE 3999)	Before end of spring term of fourth year (must be on FTDH starting the fifth year)
Committee Meetings	At least once every academic year
Teaching Requirements	During third and fourth years, and as recommended by advisor, department chair and/or graduate program director
Complete research and write the dissertation	Years four and/or five
Schedule dissertation defense	During fourth or fifth year
Submit dissertation to committee	At least three weeks before defense
Submit article(s) to refereed journal	Prior to the end of the last term
Apply for graduation	Last term, as required by the university
Submit final copy of thesis to the Engineering Administration Office	Schedule as per Engineering Administration.
Pay Microfilm / Binding fees.	Schedule as per Engineering Administration.
Submit bound copy of thesis to department office and committee members	End of last term



10.0 Thesis Formatting and Related Requirements

For detailed information on how the Ph.D. dissertation or M.S. thesis should be formatted, please consult the relevant web-site at <https://etd.pitt.edu/>. All committee members should be provided with a copy of the final M.S. thesis or Ph.D. dissertation. In addition, all students are required to submit a bound final copy to the department. This copy is placed in the department archives with the department chair and is accessible to any student or faculty member who wishes to look at the same. The final copy should be bound as required by the department – details are available with the departmental office in 1025 Benedum Hall.



11.0 Other Requirements

Every Ph.D. student is required to register each term for IE 3095: Graduate Seminar. In addition, all Ph.D. students have a teaching obligation to the department and are required to contribute to the department's teaching mission through at least two separate teaching and/or grading assignments over the course of their doctoral program. Students who are supported via assistantships may use their assistantship assignments to count for this requirement, and the department chair and/or graduate program director have the responsibility of making these assignments in consultation with the student and his/her advisor.



12.0 Residency Requirements and Statute of Limitations

Full-time residency is highly desirable in a graduate program. However, the School of Engineering recognizes the need for part-time study by persons employed in industry and allows accumulation of a portion of graduate credits on a part-time basis. The following rules typically apply for residency:

- a. Full-time residency is not required for the MS program.
- b. As per University regulations, all candidates for the PhD degree must engage in at least one term of full-time doctoral study at the University.

All members of the teaching, technical, and administrative staffs of the University, all holders of scholarships, assistantships and fellowships are considered in full residence during the period of their graduate study. For students employed full-time in industry, early planning of the academic-year leave of absence from their employment is strongly advised. The planning and arrangement with the employer for leave is the responsibility of the student.

12.1 Statute of Limitations

Requirements for the MS degree must be completed within a period of four consecutive calendar years from the student's initial registration for graduate study. Requirements for the PhD must be fulfilled within a period of ten calendar years from the student's initial registration for graduate study; or, for the student holding an MS degree, within a period of eight calendar years from the first registration for graduate study following the receipt of the MS degree. Except for time spent in the Armed Forces, the elapsed time after the student's initial registration will count toward the statute of limitations whether a student continues to register or not. Under extenuating circumstances, a student may request extension of the statute of limitation by writing to the department chairperson with the advisor's approval. Extension is not granted as a matter of course; a student requesting extension should clearly state the circumstances, period of extension sought, and present evidence that the factors causing the program's delay no longer exist. The department, in turn, will consider the circumstances, the evidence of diligence shown in fulfilling degree requirements, and the major advisor's recommendation, and then grant or reject the request. In no case is an extension granted simply to prolong a student's graduate study.



13.0 Application for Graduate Degree

An application for a graduate degree must be filed during the term in which the student expects to graduate. The application should be filed as early as possible to prevent payment of a late fee. No applications for graduation will be accepted after the end of the late application period. Application forms may be obtained in the departmental office. The student is advised to check with the Engineering Administration Office concerning the timing of this application. If a student is uncertain about completing work in the current term, the application should still be filed. If graduation is possible, a graduate degree application should be filed since it can be withdrawn, whereas an application after the late fee deadline will not be accepted. A new application must be filed for the term in which a student expects to graduate, even if an application for graduation was filed in a previous term.

All graduate students must be registered during the term of graduation. In special circumstances where only minimal work is required to complete the thesis or dissertation, a student may request a waiver for one term only.

All students who plan to graduate are strongly advised to meet with their academic advisors and the graduate program director at the **end of the term prior to the one in which they will be graduating** in order to go over their program and ensure that they would have met all degree requirements by the end of the next term.



M.S. Study Plan

Non-Thesis Option

NOTES

- **IE 2303 is required for all students without undergraduate IE degrees; optional for others**
- **Total of at least ten courses (30 credits)**
- **No more than 2 courses from outside the IE Department can count towards the 30 credits**

Course	Y	N	Advanced Substitute if N	Cr.	Grade	Term
Required Core						
IE 2001: OPERATIONS RESEARCH (S)						
IE 2005: PROBABILITY & STATISTICS FOR ENGINEERS (F)						
IE 2006: INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS (F)						
Elective Core (at least two)						
IE 2003: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT (S)						
IE 2007: STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (S)						
IE 2088: SIMULATION (S)						
IE 2100: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS (F)						
IE 2303: WORK DESIGN (S)						
Other Electives						

TOTAL No. of Credits:

M.S. Study Plan

Thesis Option

NOTES

- **IE 2303 is required for all students without undergraduate IE degrees; optional for others**
- **6+ credits of IE 2999: MS THESIS**
- **Total of at least eight courses (24 credits)**
- **No courses from outside the IE Department are permitted**

Course	Y	N	Advanced Substitute if N	Cr.	Grade	Term
Required Core						
IE 2001: OPERATIONS RESEARCH (S)						
IE 2005: PROBABILITY & STATISTICS FOR ENGINEERS (F)						
IE 2006: INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS (F)						
Elective Core (at least two)						
IE 2003: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT (S)						
IE 2007: STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (S)						
IE 2088: SIMULATION (S)						
IE 2100: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS (F)						
IE 2303: WORK DESIGN (S)						
MS Thesis credits						
IE 2999: M.S. Thesis						
IE 2999: M.S. Thesis						
IE 2999: M.S. Thesis						
Other Electives						

TOTAL No. of Credits:

Ph.D. Study Plan

NOTES

- **IE 3095: GRADUATE SEMINAR** is required each term for all full-time students
- **At least 6 COURSE credits** must be from outside of I.E. with advisor approval
- **Total of at least 45 credits** in pedagogical course work (not counting IE 3095 credits)
- **Total of at least 18 credits of IE 3997** (prior to proposal being accepted) and **IE 3999** (after proposal is accepted) combined, of which at least 12 must be from IE 3999

Course	Y	N	Substitute if N	Cr.	Grade	Term
Qualifying Core						
IE 2081: LINEAR OPTIMIZATION (F)						
IE 2006: INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS (F)						
IE 2084: STOCHASTIC PROCESSES (S)						
IE 2117: FOUNDATIONS OF STATISTICS (S)						
IE 2011: FUNDAMENTALS OF MICRO & NANOMANUFACTURING (S) (manufacturing students only)						
Required Courses						
IE 2100: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS (F)						
IE 2088: DIGITAL SYSTEMS SIMULATION (S)						
Out-of-department electives (at least 6 credits)						

Ph.D. Checklist

EVENT	Check	DATE(S)
Select initial academic advisor		
Submit tentative plan of study		
Complete qualifying core courses		
Preliminary exam		
Review of academic record		
Select graduate committee		
Paper for comprehensive exam		
Review of paper by at least two other faculty members		
Proposal exam		
Committee meetings		
Departmental teaching obligation		
Complete dissertation		
Schedule dissertation defense		
Submit dissertation to committee		
Submit article(s) from dissertation research a to refereed journal		
Apply for graduation		
Submit final copy of dissertation to the Engineering Administration Office, 253 BEH.		
Pay Microfilm / Binding fees.		
Submit bound copy of thesis to department office and committee members		