

Doctoral Program Guide*

Year 1	
Qualifying Exam	<p>Steps to accomplish the qualifying exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register for the exam: It is the student’s responsibility to register for the doctoral qualifying exam as early in the semester as possible and without fail by the first Friday of the month before the exam (October for fall and February for spring semester. The Director of Graduate Studies will send out an e-mail reminding students to sign-up for their exams before this date each semester. • Each student will have a topic assigned to them on the first Friday of November (fall) or last Friday of February (spring). A summary write - up will be due the following Friday, and then an oral exam will be held the following week.
Doctoral Coursework Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult 5 year aerospace course offering schedule • Degree requires 36 semester hours of coursework beyond the Bachelor’s degree. • Courses should be listed on the Doctoral Coursework Plan as early as possible in the program. Submit to Graduate Director for approval before advancement to candidacy.
Year 2	
Research Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with your faculty adviser to form your research proposal. Generally this proposal will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The goal of your research ○ An outline of your methodology ○ Where your research fits into the current research literature • Conduct preliminary research for your proposal. Commonly used resources include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty (particularly your adviser) and other researchers ○ Google Scholar and other online databases • The Engineering library and Robin Dasler, the aerospace engineering subject expert.
Comprehensive Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Exams occur after coursework is complete or within 1 year of completing the qualifying exam (whichever occurs first). Students should work with their adviser to schedule the comprehensive exam as soon as they pass the qualifying exam. • Organize committee with adviser. Obtain approval of its membership by the Director of Graduate Studies. • The committee will consist of at least 5 members, with at least one member representing the field of mathematics, physical sciences, life sciences, or computer sciences, and one member representing the student’s minor area within the department. • If two or more members of the committee vote not to pass the student, the student fails the exam. The comprehensive exam may be repeated only once. The second attempt on the comprehensive should be taken within one semester of the failure. • If you pass, file the Application for Admission to Candidacy. You will then be enrolled in 6 credits of ENAE899 automatically each semester.

*This Doctoral Program Guide assumes you enter the PhD program with a Master’s degree. If entering with a B.S., expect to take 5 years. While this guide provides advice and references department policies, it is not to act as a replacement to official policy. For the official policy, please see [here](#).

Years 3 & 4

Please be sure to check the [deadlines](#) for the semester you plan to graduate.

Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student must register for at least 12 semester hours of ENAE 899 (Ph.D. thesis research) over the course of his /her doctoral program, in addition to the 36 semester hours of coursework. You will be automatically enrolled by the registrar provided you have advanced to candidacy. Form a dissertation committee with your adviser and submit a Nomination of Dissertation Committee form.
Writing & Presenting Skills	<p>Ways to practice and improve your presentation and writing skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present at conferences or GSAC Research Luncheons; publish papers Attend seminars on public speaking in the department of Communications Attend Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID); Spring each year Learn about the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation process and format
Academic Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for the Future Faculty Program if interested in a career in education
Dissertation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become familiar with Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETD) policies and style guides Make use of the Writing Center's resources for graduate students
Pre-Defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student will give a pre-defense oral report on the progress of his/her research to the dissertation committee. This should take place when the student is 50- 80% finished with planned research so the committee can actively share in the research and make constructive comments. The student is responsible for scheduling this pre -defense, in agreement with the adviser
Final Oral Defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit signed Report of Examining Committee after successful defense Submit Electronic Publication form (paper copy and online process) after final revisions made to dissertation

Graduation

Graduation Paperwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for Graduation at the beginning of the semester you plan to graduate Complete the Graduate School's surveys for PhD graduates
Reception & Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to pick up your graduation gift from the department at the graduation reception! Visit the commencement website for full event details. Join the Department of Aerospace Engineering LinkedIn group to connect with fellow alumni

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