**Accelerated PhD Track**

**Objectives**

Applicants who have an excellent record of academic achievement, and a potential for creative and independent work at the Bachelor level, may be admitted into a PhD accelerated track at the Bachelor level. An applicant can be considered for admission into a PhD track if s/he meets the following minimum admission requirements.

**Admission Requirements**

- A bachelor degree with a minimum major and cumulative average of 85 over 100 or its equivalent.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test scores
- Three recommendation letters (one from the FYP supervisor)
- An applicant’s written statement of purpose that shows the research potentials in the proposed area of study
- Two-three pages research proposal
- Performance of the candidate in the EECE 499 research-based course if taken
- An interview, conducted either in person, by phone, or over the Internet with the ECE Graduate Committee (EGC).

**All applicants must also satisfy the University requirements for admission to PhD Accelerated track**

**Course Requirements**

The completion of at least seventy-eight (78) credits of graduate study consisting of combined course work and research beyond the Bachelor’s degree is required for the PhD Accelerated track in Electrical and Computer Engineering. A minimum of 36 credit hours must be in approved graduate level course work and a minimum of 30 credit hours of thesis work. In addition, normally a maximum of six credit hours out of the 36 credits of course work may be tutorial courses.

The basic program of study for the PhD accelerated track is built around: one major area and a minimum of one minor area. Students take courses to satisfy the major and minor area requirements and to acquire the knowledge needed for the Qualifying Exam Part I and Qualifying Exam Part II.

- The major area can be in one or a combination of two of the ECE areas.
- Nine credits of core courses must be taken in the major area
- Students must take at least six graduate courses in their PhD major area.
- Students must also take at least three graduate courses in their PhD minor area.
- The minor courses may be taken in one of the ECE areas
- The minor course, based on the recommendation of the advisor and approval of the ECE graduate Committee (EGC) can be from an area outside the ECE department, or a combination of courses taken in the department and outside the department.

**PhD Qualifying Exam**

All PhD students are required to pass the qualifying exam. The PhD qualifying exam is two parts. Qualifying Exam Part I is a written comprehensive exam administered by the department/program. The Qualifying Exam Part II is an oral thesis proposal defense exam administered by the thesis committee.

**Qualifying Exam Part I: Comprehensive Exam**

Comprehensive examinations are written exams taken after completing a minimum of 30 credits of course requirements for the accelerated track. Timing of the examination is set by the department/program no later than the sixth regular semester of the PhD student’s enrolment.
Residence Requirements

The student must register for at least eight semesters beyond the completion of the bachelor degree. Requirements for the PhD degree in the accelerated track must be completed within a period of six years after starting graduate work beyond the bachelor’s degree. Extension beyond the six-year limit requires the approval of the EGC, FEA GSC, and GC.

Students deemed by the department, within one to two years after admission into the accelerated track, as not qualified to complete a PhD degree, may be granted a master’s degree in the area after completing the equivalence of a non-thesis master’s. Every effort will be made to screen students carefully to assure their potential and aptitude as researchers prior to acceptance. This could be accomplished by having selected students participate in ongoing research projects while they are registered undergraduates.

For other requirements and rules, please refer to the PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering section.