Mechanical Engineering, Ph.D.

Curriculum in Doctor of Philosophy – Mechanical Engineering

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree with a major in mechanical engineering must comply with the rules and regulations as outlined in the WVU Graduate Catalog and the specific requirements of the Statler College and the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department.

Program Requirements

The doctor of philosophy degree with a major in mechanical engineering is administered through the college’s interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. The research work for the doctoral dissertation must show a high degree of originality on the part of the student and must constitute an original contribution to the art and science of mechanical engineering.

All Ph.D. degree candidates are required to perform research and follow a planned program of study. The student’s research advisor, in conjunction with the student’s Advising and Examining Committee (AEC) will be responsible for determining the plan of study appropriate to the student’s needs. The underlying principle of the planned program is to provide the students with the necessary support to complete their degree and prepare them for their career.

The doctoral courses of study are selected to fit the particular interests and objectives of the student, with proper attention given to broadening related areas of study. The research work for the doctoral dissertation may entail a fundamental investigation into a specialized area or a broad and comprehensive study in a related subject.

All students pursuing a Ph.D. degree in the MAE department are expected to engage in research and complete and successfully defend a Ph.D. dissertation. They should identify a subject for their Ph.D. dissertation, form a five-member advisory and examining committee, and file a plan of study by the end of their first semester of enrollment in the graduate program. At least one member of the graduate faculty from outside the department is required to serve on the advisory and examining committee.

PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT

Prior to scheduling the dissertation defense, Ph.D. students are required to provide written documentation that they have received formal proof of submission of either:

a.) At least one manuscript, generally co-authored with their research supervisor and about some portion of their PhD dissertation research, to an archival journal for publication, or

b.) At least one patent disclosure, also generally about some portion of their PhD dissertation research.

Curriculum Requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses.

Course Requirements

| Core Area Courses |  
|-------------------|---|
| Select one course in the relevant core area from the following: | |
| **Area A: Fluid Mechanics and Aerodynamics (FMA)** | 
| MAE 532 | Dynamics of Viscous Fluids |
| MAE 624 | Convection Heat Transfer |
| MAE 636 | Fundamentals of Turbulent Flow |
| **Area B: Thermal Sciences and Systems (TSS)** | 
| MAE 521 | Advanced Thermodynamics 1 |
| MAE 532 | Dynamics of Viscous Fluids |
| MAE 624 | Convection Heat Transfer |
| **Area C: Dynamics and Controls (D&C)** | 
| MAE 642 | Intermediate Dynamics |
| MAE 653 | Advanced Vibrations |
| MAE 660 | Feedback Control in Mechanical Engineering |
| **Area D: Solid Mechanics and Design (SMD)** | 
| MAE 543 | Advanced Mechanics of Materials |
| MAE 640 | Continuum Mechanics |
| MAE 642 | Intermediate Dynamics |
| MAE 653 | Advanced Vibrations |
Area E: Materials Science (MS)

- MAE 580 Crystallography and Crystals
- MAE 583 Thermodynamics and Kinetics of Materials
- MAE 649 Microscopy of Materials

**Mathematics Requirements**

Select two of the following (at least one course with MATH prefix or MAE 515):

- MATH 521 Numerical Analysis
- MATH 522 Numerical Solution of PDE
- MATH 541 Modern Algebra 1
- MATH 543 Linear Algebra
- MATH 545 Number Theory 1
- MATH 551 Real Variables 1
- MATH 555 Complex Variables 1
- MATH 560 Introduction to Dynamical Systems and Applications
- MATH 563 Mathematical Modeling
- MATH 564 Intermediate Differential Equations
- MATH 566 Intermediate Partial Differential Equations
- MATH 567 Advanced Calculus 1
- MATH 568 Advanced Calculus
- MATH 573 Graph Theory
- STAT 513 Design of Experiments
- STAT 545 Applied Regression Analysis
- STAT 561 Theory of Statistics 1
- STAT 562 Theory of Statistics 2
- MAE 515 Analytical Methods in Engineering
- MAE 623 Conduction Heat Transfer
- MAE 633 Computational Fluid Dynamics
- MAE 640 Continuum Mechanics
- MAE 645 Energy Methods in Applied Mechanics
- CHE 531 Mathematical Methods in Chemical Engineering
- EE 515 Linear Control Systems
- EE 517 Optimal Control
- IENG 518 Technology Forecasting
- IENG 553 Applied Linear Programming
- PHYS 611 Introduction to Mathematical Physics

**Research**

- MAE 797 Research

Any BIOM, BMEG, CE, CHE, CHEM, CPE, CS, EE, IENG, IH&S, MAE, MATH, MINE, PNGE, PHYS, SAFM, SENG, EXPH 583, or STAT courses 500-795, as approved by the student’s AEC.

**Milestones**

- Plan of Study
- Qualifying Exam
- Candidacy Exam (Dissertation research proposal defense)
- Publication Requirement
- Final Exam
- Dissertation

**Total Hours**

42

*Students who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in mechanical engineering are required to take a set of undergraduate mechanical engineering courses above and beyond the minimum coursework requirements in order to overcome deficiencies in the area.

For these students, a minimum of fifty-four hours of coursework and thirty hours of independent research beyond a bachelor’s degree, or eighteen hours of coursework and twenty-four hours of independent research beyond an M.S. degree are required.*
PhD students who also earn their MS degree in the MAE Department are expected to select the third core course in their technical area.

Examinations

QUALIFYING EXAM

All students must take and pass a written qualifying examination. Normally, the qualifying examination is given no later than one semester after completion of eighteen credit hours toward the doctoral degree. This examination is designed to assess the basic competency of students in the mechanical engineering field to determine whether or not they have sufficient knowledge to undertake independent research.

The Ph.D. qualifying examination is the method of assessing whether the student has attained sufficient knowledge of the discipline and supporting fields in order to undertake independent research or practice. Students are required to pass a qualifying examination administered by the department which tests for a minimum level of proficiency expected of all students in a given area. It is expected that students will take the qualifying exam during their first or second semester of enrollment in the Ph.D. program; however, it is required that full-time students pass the qualifying examination no later than the end of the third semester of enrollment in their Ph.D. program. Students admitted in the direct track from B.S. to Ph.D. degree option are expected to take the qualifying exam by the end of their fourth semester of enrollment in the MAE graduate program.

CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

In order to be admitted to candidacy, the student must pass a candidacy exam, which is designed to evaluate the student’s overall ability to engage in high-level research.

As the student progresses, his or her advisory and examining committee is charged with evaluating the student’s competency in the specific area of study through the assessment of a dissertation proposal for the research to be completed and the evaluation of the student’s plan of study and associated coursework. After these requirements are completed, the student is formally admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Only at this point can a student be called a doctoral candidate; admission to the graduate program for the purpose of pursuing the Ph.D. degree is not equivalent to becoming a Ph.D. candidate. Doctoral candidates are allowed no more than five years to complete the remaining degree requirements after admission to candidacy. An extension of time can be obtained only by repeating the qualifying and candidacy examinations and meeting any other requirements specified by the student’s advisory and examining committee.

A student who has successfully completed all coursework, passed the qualifying examination, and successfully defended the research proposal is defined as one who is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree.

FINAL EXAMINATION

At the completion of the dissertation research, candidates must prepare a dissertation and pass the final oral examination (defense) administered by their AEC.

In order to complete the Ph.D. requirements, a student must pass a final oral examination on the results embodied in the dissertation. This examination is open to the public and, in order to evaluate critically the student’s competency, may include testing on material in related fields, as deemed necessary by the AEC. In addition, since the Ph.D. degree is primarily a research degree that embodies the results of an original research proposal and represents a significant contribution to scientific literature, the student must submit a manuscript on this research to the AEC.

Suggested Plan of Study

It is important for students to take courses in the order specified as much as possible; all prerequisites and concurrent requirements must be observed. A typical doctoral degree program that completes degree requirements in three years is as follows. The Ph.D. degree signifies that the holder has the competence to function independently at the highest level in the chosen field. Hence, the number of years involved in attaining or retaining competency cannot be readily specified, nor can an exact program of study be defined.

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<th>First Year</th>
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<td>3 Additional Course</td>
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<td>MAE 797</td>
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<td>3 MAE 797</td>
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### JOURNAL PAPER PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL PHD STUDENTS:

Beginning with all PhD students admitted for the summer or fall of 2016 and thereafter, every Ph.D. student, prior to his/her dissertation defense, will be required to provide written documentation that they have received formal proof of submission of either:

a.) At least one manuscript, generally co-authored with their research supervisor and about some portion of their PhD dissertation research, to an archival journal for publication, or

b.) At least one patent disclosure, also generally about some portion of their PhD dissertation research.

This publication requirement will have to be satisfied prior to scheduling the defense of the Ph.D. Dissertation.

### Major Learning Outcomes

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

The MAE Department is committed to deliver high quality education and research experience to all graduate students in order to enable them to achieve success in their careers, though the following Learning Goals:

- Expertise, depth and breadth in a chosen field of mechanical engineering.
- Capacity to engage in original research, advanced technological discovery and innovation in order to advance the frontiers of knowledge in the science of the mechanical engineering discipline.
- Capacity of effective high level communication in order to document, disseminate and transfer knowledge of the science of the mechanical engineering discipline in educational, research or applied workplace settings.
- Appreciation and understanding of the role of the science of mechanical engineering discipline in a global and societal context.