

Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Degrees Offered

- Masters of Science, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (M.S.P.N.G.E.)
- Doctor of Philosophy, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (Ph.D.)

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (PNGE) graduate programs are designed for students who have already completed a basic petroleum engineering curriculum.

Degree Programs

The Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering admits students to the following degree programs: master of science in petroleum and natural gas engineering (M.S.P.N.G.E.) and petroleum and natural gas engineering major under the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources' interdisciplinary doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.). Students in these programs must comply with the rules and regulations as presented in the general requirements for graduate work in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

Program Objectives

The objective of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (PNGE) graduate programs is to educate and train men and women who will be capable of performing at the highest levels of the petroleum and natural gas engineering profession. The programs provide students with the advanced technical knowledge and engineering skills needed by the oil and gas industry in the state, the nation, and the world. Moreover, the programs will make students competent to perform independent research and will prepare them to be the future providers of high quality education in petroleum and natural gas engineering. Graduates have the opportunity to enter all phases of the oil and natural gas industry, government agencies, and academia in meaningful and important jobs.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Graduates will have in-depth knowledge of petroleum and natural gas engineering principles and applications to function effectively in their profession or continue their education.
- Graduates will have the ability to perform independent research to solve engineering and scientific problems encountered in their profession.

Areas of Research

- Development of the Unconventional Oil and Gas Resources
- Drilling and Completion
- Stimulation
- Reservoir Characterization and Formation Evaluation
- CO₂ Sequestration and Enhanced Oil Recovery
- Reservoir Modeling and Simulation
- Application of Artificial Intelligence

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Samuel Ameri - M.S.Pet.E., P.E. (West Virginia University)
Formation Evaluation

PROFESSORS

- Kashy Aminian - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
Natural Gas Engineering, Reservoir Engineering
- Shahab Mohaghegh - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
Intelligent Systems

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- H. Ilkin Bilgesu - Ph.D., P.E. (Pennsylvania State University)
Drilling Engineering

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Ebrahim Fathi - Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma)
Unconventional Gas Recovery
- Ali Takbiri Boroujeni - Ph.D. (Louisiana State University)
Enhanced Oil Recovery
- Ming Gu - Ph.D. (University of Texas)
Rock Mechanics

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Fatemeh Belyadi - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Reservoir Engineering
- Mehrdad Zamirian - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Reservoir Engineering

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

- Alan Brannon - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Natural Gas Engineering
- Pramod Thakur - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
Coalbed Methane Development

Masters Admission

A candidate for the M.S.P.N.G.E. program must meet the following requirements:

- B.S. degree in engineering from an ABET-accredited, or an internationally-recognized engineering program or equivalent with a grade point average (GPA) equal to, or greater than, 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) (Applicants who cannot meet this condition may be considered for provisional admission.)
- International students must demonstrate proficiency in communicating in English (a minimum TOEFL score of 550, or IBT score of 79, or IELTS score of 6.5).
- At least three recommendation letters (One letter must be from the applicant's academic advisor or equivalent.)

Doctoral Admission

A candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) must comply with the rules and regulations as outlined in the general requirements for graduate work in engineering and the specific requirements stated in the departmental guidelines.

A candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) must meet the following requirements:

- B.S. or M.S. degree in petroleum engineering from an ABET-accredited, or an internationally-recognized petroleum engineering program or equivalent with a grade point average (GPA) equal to, or greater than, 3.0 and 3.2, respectively
- A score of at least seventy-fifth percentile for Graduate Record Examination (GRE) quantitative analysis
- International students must demonstrate proficiency in communicating in English (a minimum TOEFL Score of 550, or IBT Score of 79, or IELTS Score of 6.5).
- At least three recommendation letters (One letter must be from the applicant's previous thesis advisor or an academic equivalent.)

Curriculum in Master of Science in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

A candidate for the M.S. degree in petroleum and natural gas 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 Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering Department.

Program Requirements

All M.S. 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.

Curriculum Requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses

Course Requirements

A minimum of 60% of courses must be from 500 level or above

All students are required to take Graduate Seminar (PNGE 796) for each semester enrolled.

Program Requirements

The doctor of philosophy degree with a major in petroleum and natural gas 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 petroleum and natural gas 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.

Curriculum Requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses

Course Requirements *

All students are required to take Graduate Seminar (PNGE 796) for each semester enrolled.

A maximum of three credit hours each of Graduate Seminar (PNGE 796) and Independent Study (PNGE 795) can be counted towards meeting the coursework requirements.

Research	24
PNGE 797 Research	

Select the following based on degree path:

Any BIOM, CE, CHE, CHEM, CPE, CS, EE, GEOL, IENG, IH&S, MAE, MATH, MINE, PNGE, PHYS, SAFM, SENG, or STAT courses 500-799	24
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Examinations

Qualifying Exam

Candidacy Exam

Final Exam

Total Hours	48
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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 petroleum and natural gas engineering field to determine whether or not they have sufficient knowledge to undertake independent research.

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. A student must pass the qualifying examination prior to taking Candidacy Exam. The Candidacy Exam is administered by the student's AEC and requires preparation and defense of the dissertation research proposal. The Candidacy Exam may also include testing on material in related fields, as deemed necessary by the AEC.

A student who has successfully completed all coursework, passed the qualifying and candidacy exam 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, candidate must prepare a dissertation and pass the final oral examination (defense) administered by his/her 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 work 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.

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PNGE 796	1 PNGE 796	1
Course	3 Course	3
Course	3 Course	3
PNGE 797	2 PNGE 797	2
	9	9

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PNGE 796	1 PNGE 796	1
PNGE 797	2 PNGE 797	2
Course	3 Course	3
Course	3 Course	3
	9	9

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PNGE 796	1 PNGE 796	1
PNGE 797	8 PNGE 797	8
	9	9

Total credit hours: 54

Major Learning Goals**PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS ENGINEERING**

- Graduates will have in-depth knowledge of petroleum and natural gas engineering principles and applications to function effectively in their profession or continue their education.
- Graduates will have the ability to perform independent research to solve engineering and scientific problems encountered in their profession.
- Graduates will have in-depth petroleum and natural gas scientific and engineering knowledge to provide high quality education in petroleum and natural gas engineering.