Software Engineering, M.S.S.E.

Degrees Offered

- Masters of Science, Software Engineering (M.S.S.E.)

Program Description

The Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering offers the professionally oriented and applied Masters of Science in Software Engineering (M.S.S.E.) degree program, as well as a graduate Certificate in Software Engineering. The M.S.S.E. provides graduate educational opportunities to working professionals. The M.S.S.E. degree is a unique fully-online program that provides graduate level software engineering expertise to individuals who are currently working in software engineering or the information technology industry. The program aspires to serve full-time software engineering professions with a background in computer science or similar fields seeking an applied masters program who want the flexibility of an online format.

Under the coursework-only option, students will complete their degree requirements with five core courses and six advanced elective courses that deepen their understanding of aspects of software engineering relevant to their careers. Problem Report and Thesis Options are also available.

Program Educational Objectives & Outcomes

The objective of the program is to produce graduates who have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will ensure success in professional positions in business, industry, research, or governmental service.

After completing five core courses, students will achieve the following outcomes.

Proficiency in:

- Software Project Management.
- Software Analysis and Design.
- Object-Oriented Design of Software.
- Software Verification and Validation.
- Software Evolution.

Admissions to the M.S.S.E. Program

Students seeking admission to the M.S.S.E. program must satisfy the following requirements to be considered. The Master Code is 3081 when completing the application.

- All International applicants must submit proof of English language proficiency.

All students must fulfill all items required in Category A or Category B:

- Category A Admission Requirements
  - Submit official transcripts showing degree completion of a Bachelor degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, or a closely related field from an accredited University, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4-point scale) or better.
  - Submit satisfactory scores in quantitative reasoning for the GRE General Test or Revised General Test OR submit a resume reflecting one year of software engineering experience in any industry with no GRE required.
  - Submit a resume, personal statement, and three academic or work-related references.

- Category B Admission Requirements
  - Submit official transcripts showing degree completion of a Bachelor degree in any field of study from an accredited University with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4-point scale) or better.
  - Submit a personal statement and a resume along with 3 letters of reference that demonstrate 3 years or more of software engineering experience in any industry. No GRE is required.
  - Upon entry into the program, complete SENG 505 Programming Applications with JAVA with a letter grade of ‘B’ or above. Note: the credit earned for the SENG 505 course does not apply toward the required hours for the MSSE Degree.

Curriculum in Master of Science in Software Engineering

A candidate for the M.S. degree in software 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 Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.
# Program Requirements

All M.S. degree candidates are required to follow a planned program of study. The student’s faculty 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 student with the necessary support to complete their degree and prepare them for their career.

## Curriculum Requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, based upon a 4.0 system is required for all applicants.

### Course Requirements

The following five core courses are required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SENG 510</td>
<td>Software Project Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENG 520</td>
<td>Software Analysis and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENG 530</td>
<td>Software Verification and Validation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENG 540</td>
<td>Software Evolution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENG 550</td>
<td>Object Oriented Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Advanced Elective Course**: 9

Select from the following:

- CPE 538    Intro Computer Security Management
- CS 533    Developing Portable Software
- SENG 560  Software Reuse
- CYBR 535  Business Network Security
- CYBR 540  Information Ethics and Legal Procedures
- SENG 561  Agile Software Development
- SENG 564  Software Engineering of Mobile Applications
- SENG 581  Quality Software Process Management
- SENG 582  Enterprise Architecture Framework
- SENG 670  Data Analytics with Applications in Software Engineering
- SENG 695  Independent Study (Experiential Learning)
- SENG 650  Cloud Computing for the Internet of Things
- STAT 511  Statistical Methods 1
- STAT 521  Statistical Analysis System Programming
- STAT 522  Advanced Statistical Analysis System Programming (upon request to Advisor)

Any SENG Courses 510-699 may be taken as an advanced elective.

Complete 1 of the following options: 6-9

**Thesis Option - 6 hours**

- SENG 697  Research (6 hours)
- Written Research Proposal
- Thesis
- Final Oral or Written Examination

**Problem Report Option - 9 hours**

- Complete 6 additional hours of advanced elective coursework
- SENG 697  Research (3 hours)
- Written Research Proposal
- Formal written report or professional report/paper
- Final Oral or Written Examination

**Coursework Option - 9 hours**

- Complete 9 additional hours of advanced electives

**Total Hours**: 30-33

* SENG 505 is only offered as a Preparatory Course, required only for specified Provisional Graduate Student and no credit can be earned toward the degree or certificate.

** A maximum of 12 semester credit hours taken elsewhere may be transferred into the program.
No more than 9 semester credit hours of 400-level (senior undergraduate) LCSEE department courses (or equivalent courses transferred from outside the university) may be included in your program if they were not counted for another degree.

All of these options noted require approval by the software engineering curriculum committee.

Final Examination
M.S. students following the thesis or problem report option must prepare a written research proposal. The proposal must be approved by the student's AEC at least one semester prior to the final oral examination. These students are required to pass a final oral examination, administered by their AEC, covering the thesis or problem report.

Suggested Plan of Study
The plan below illustrates the Coursework Option. 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 M.S.S.E degree program that completes degree requirements in two years is as follows.

First Year
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SENG 520</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SENG 510</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SENG 540</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENG 550</td>
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<td>SENG 530</td>
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<td>Adv. Elective Course</td>
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Second Year
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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>Adv Elective Course</td>
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Total credit hours: 33

Major Learning Outcomes
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
It is our goal that in the first five years after graduation our students will:

1. Achieve success and proficiency in the Software Engineering profession.
2. Be recognized as leaders.
3. Contribute to the well-being of society.

COURSES

SENG 505. Programming Applications with Java. 3 Hours.
PR: Consent. This course serves as an introduction to developing application software. It covers solving problems using the Java programming language. Topics include problem-solving, fundamentals of programming, basic algorithms and data structures, data organization, defensive programming, relational databases and creating database applications.

SENG 510. Software Project Management. 3 Hours.
Techniques and tools for managing the software development process for large development projects.

SENG 520. Software Analysis and Design. 3 Hours.
Defining software requirements and an introduction to the principles and concepts relevant to the design of large programs and software systems.

SENG 530. Software Verification and Validation. 3 Hours.
Tools and techniques for applied verification and validation of computer software including requirements, design, and code relevant to several development lifecycle models.

SENG 540. Software Evolution. 3 Hours.
Software process and the Capability Maturity Model (CMM), software maintenance and evolution, program understanding, reengineering, software configuration management, and software tools related to these issues.

SENG 550. Object Oriented Design. 3 Hours.
Highlights contemporary design and analysis techniques with a strong emphasis on the Unified Modeling Language (UML). The class focuses on problem space analysis utilizing object oriented techniques to produce real world design solutions in UML.
SENG 560. Software Reuse. 3 Hours.
PR: SENG 550 or consent. A detailed study of the business, organizational, and technical implications of large-scale software reuse in modern environments. Architecture, design for reuse, domain engineering, model-driven development, frameworks, library design, reuse tools, and design patterns.

SENG 561. Agile Software Development. 3 Hours.
PR: SENG 550 or consent. Techniques and methodologies of agile software engineering; development team roles, product backlog, sprint planning, sprint execution, test-driven development, sprint retrospective, development tools and environments. Emphasis on successfully managing agile projects in geographically dispersed work environments.

SENG 564. Software Engineering of Mobile Applications. 3 Hours.

SENG 565. Software Engineering Economics. 3 Hours.
PR: SENG 510 or instructor consent. The software engineering economics fundamentals to real-world software economic problems addressed to include software life cycle economics and concepts of risk and uncertainty to software development projects. Application of best practices economic analysis methods for software life-cycle economics, including portfolio and product line management, investment decisions, and earned value management.

SENG 566. Enterprise Architecture Framework. 3 Hours.
PR: SENG 520 or Consent. Study of architecture frameworks used in government and business to design holistic advanced computer systems. Application of frameworks to the enterprise processes, technologies, and people to achieve the enterprise mission and objectives.

SENG 567. Data Analytics with Applications in Software Engineering. 3 Hours.
PR: SENG 520 and STAT 215 or Consent. Foundation of data science, with focus on applications in software engineering. Different empirical methods such as surveys, case studies, and experiments. Threats to validity. Methods for data preparation. Statistics for data understanding and assessment. Commonly used supervised and unsupervised machine learning algorithms.

SENG 697. Research. 1-9 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.)