



JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY

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Department of  
Mechanical  
Engineering

M.S.E.  
Graduate Student  
Advising Manual

2026-2027

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# 1. Welcome!

**Welcome to the Department of Mechanical Engineering!** This manual is designed to serve as a guide for Master of Science in Engineering (M.S.E.) students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering to work more effectively during their time at JHU, and to describe the basic academic requirements for the M.S.E. degree. The detailed planning of an academic program, such as choosing courses and the like must be done with the guidance of the faculty advisor.

This manual covers policies and procedures and offers suggestions regarding our program. Please address issues and questions not covered in this manual with these professors and staff:

- Academic Program Manager – Lauren Rodgers – [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu)
- Senior Academic Program Coordinator – John Soos – [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu)
- Your faculty advisor
- Director of Master’s Studies, Professor Rajat Mittal – [mittal@jhu.edu](mailto:mittal@jhu.edu)
- Department Head, Professor Gretar Tryggvason – [gtryggv1@jhu.edu](mailto:gtryggv1@jhu.edu)

This document is not phrased to professional legal standards. You will want to clarify any unclear issues with the department.

## 2. General Information

### 2.1. Residency Requirements

Once master’s students begin their graduate course of study toward a degree, they must complete a minimum of two semesters of registration as a full-time, resident graduate student. To qualify as a resident student, the student must be present on campus and working toward fulfilling the requirements for the degree. Note that for Whiting School master’s students, the two semesters don’t need to be consecutive, but for international students, most will be full-time every semester except possibly the last semester.

Information is available at [Graduate Board Degree Requirements page](#) and the [Whiting School’s General Graduate Student Policies and Procedures page](#).

### 2.2. English Language Program for International Students

International students whose native language is other than English are strongly encouraged to strengthen their English language skills, no matter how proficient they are currently. Taking the course AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation will help.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The courses AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation and AS.370.603 Culture and Communication Strategies *do not count* toward the master’s degree requirements.

- **All students whose TOEFL speaking scores are 26/30 or higher** are exempt from taking AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation, but are strongly encouraged to take AS.370.603 Communication Strategies in the American Academia.
- **For Masters students whose TOEFL speaking scores are 25/30 or lower:**
  - Those intending to apply for Mechanical Engineering Teaching Assistant (TA) positions must register for and complete AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation before applying, and are strongly encouraged to take AS.370.603 Culture and Communication Strategies in the American Academia, as well.
  - All others not intending to apply for a TA position are encouraged, but not required to register for AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation and are welcome to take AS.370.603 Culture and Communication Strategies in the American Academia.

If you feel that your English-language skills are strong enough to avoid taking these remedial courses, you are welcome to participate in English-language assessments by the English Language Program for International Teaching Assistants of the Language Teaching Center (LTC).

Visit the LTC in 523 Krieger Hall to take the English-language assessment listening test and interview. Contact the [Center for Language Education](#) to arrange an appointment.

If you pass the test, you may drop the American English Pronunciation course and you will be eligible to act as a Teaching Assistant right away. If the examiner “recommends” or “requires” taking AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation, then our department requires you to take the course.

If you must take AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation but there is a conflict with another course on your schedule, you may delay taking the course but you cannot be hired as a Teaching Assistant until you take and pass the remedial course.

## 2.3. Required Introductory Courses and Tutorials

There are several introductory courses and tutorials that all graduate students must take. These courses cannot be counted toward course requirements listed for the M.S.E. degree.

### 2.3.1. Responsible Conduct of Research

All graduate students are required to take the [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) course.

- All M.S.E. students should complete the course in their first semester.
- M.S.E. students receiving payment for research or who are conducting research used to help complete degree requirements must complete the online training course AS.360.624 before conducting research and/or receiving payment.
- M.S.E. students receiving payment from NIH Training Grants must take the in-person (and possibly online, as well) training course AS.360.625.

### 2.3.2. Academic Ethics and Graduate Orientation

Graduate students are automatically enrolled in the online tutorial EN.500.603 Academic Ethics and Graduate Orientation, which teaches academic and ethical responsibilities. This online tutorial must normally be completed in the first eight weeks of the student's first semester. The Whiting School of Engineering will notify new students when the course is available.

### 2.3.3. Laboratory Safety Assessments

All students working in research laboratories must take the Intermediate Laboratory Safety course modules: an introduction to laboratory safety, including chemical, biological, radiation, and physical hazards. Students learn hazard assessment techniques, laboratory emergencies, and general lab standards for Whiting School of Engineering.

**See the Laboratory Safety Assessment – Training section later in this manual for details on the modules and lectures.** These should be taken before beginning work in a research laboratory, preferably in the first two weeks of the first semester, and *must be taken by the end of the student's first semester.*

### 2.3.4. Opioid Epidemic Awareness and Title IX & Harassment Prevention

As part of online student orientation activities, you will take the online courses "Opioid Epidemic Awareness" and "Title IX & Harassment Prevention."

These courses are available in [your My.JHU.edu](#) page under "My Learning" and search the catalog for "Opioid Epidemic Awareness" and "Title IX Harassment Prevention." Sign in to "My.JHU.edu" with your JHED ID and password.

### 2.3.5. Effort Reporting System - Certifier

For those receiving a stipend or who will be paid for Teaching Assistant work, the University is required by US Federal Law to account for all work effort performed by every employee – whether staff, faculty, postdoc, or student. This is completed quarterly by certifying an Effort Report.

The academic staff pre-reviews Effort Reports for all student salaries to confirm they are allocated to the correct accounts, then the employee or student is asked to certify the Effort Report. Each employee and student are required to take a brief training of 30-40 minutes.

These courses are available in [your My.JHU.edu](#) page under "My Learning" and search the catalog for "Effort Reporting System – Certifiers." Sign in to "My.JHU.edu" with your JHED ID and password.

## 2.4. Academic Advisors

In most cases, a graduate student's academic advisor will be a full-time faculty member - or in the case of some "all-course" master's students an academic staff member trained to advise students - in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

### DEFINITION

An advisor is best defined as a departmentally approved faculty member or staff member under whose guidance a student is taking courses to complete a degree. Faculty members also will advise students who are conducting research and in whose lab the student is associated and expected to participate. All students must have an advisor.

### ONE or MULTIPLE ADVISORS

Occasionally, a student may partake in specialized research where he or she will work with a professor in another department. If this is the case, the student will have two advisors:

- A research advisor, whose primary appointment is in an outside department and may or may not have a secondary appointment in Mechanical Engineering
- An academic advisor whose primary appointment is in Mechanical Engineering.

### IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT YOUR ADVISOR

If you have a concern about your advisor - whether you have concerns about advising quality, if you believe you and your advisor are not a good match, or if there is an unresolvable conflict - please contact the following people in this order:

1. Prof. Rajat Mittal, Director of Master's Studies - [mittal@jhu.edu](mailto:mittal@jhu.edu)
2. Lauren Rodgers, Academic Program Manager - [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu)
3. Christine Kavanagh, Associate Vice Dean of Graduate Affairs and Lifelong Learning in the Whiting School of Engineering - [christinekavanagh@jhu.edu](mailto:christinekavanagh@jhu.edu).

The Director of Master's Studies will first try to help you resolve your concern. If he is unable to resolve it, the Academic Program Manager will assist, as will the Associate Vice Dean if we cannot resolve your concern within the department.

## 3. The M.S.E. Degree Program

The Master of Science in Engineering (M.S.E.) degree requirements, along with general information, will be described here.

### 3.1. University and Whiting School Degree Requirements

Visit the [Whiting School Graduate Studies Academic Policies page](#) for information on school-wide requirements, such as:

- Two semesters of full-time course registration, also called “residency.”
- Course registration every semester.
- Completion of academic ethics and responsible conduct of research courses.
- MSE essay submission.

See Section 3.5 for information on minimum credit enrollment maintain full-time “residency” status.

### 3.2. M.S.E. Mechanical Engineering - Degree Requirements

The M.S.E. degree may be a final degree or it may be earned *en route* to a Ph.D. degree. Students who complete the M.S.E. degree are not automatically admitted to the Ph.D. program.

The department requirements for an M.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering are described in Sections “A” and “B”:

**SECTION A:** Completion of a set of advanced one-semester courses as approved by your advisor.

- 1) **Six courses, each 3-credits or more** from any department other than the Center for Leadership Education.
- 2) **Additional courses totaling 6 credits** – which can include any of these options:
  - Two 3-credit courses from any department other than the Center for Leadership Education.
  - One 3-credit (or more) course from any department and 3 credits from the Center for Leadership Education (EN.660.6xx, EN.661.6xx, EN.662.6xx, and EN.663.6xx), either two 1.5-credit courses or one 3-credit course.
  - Six graduate-level credits (xxx.6xx) from the Center for Leadership Education, any combination of 1.5-credit or 3-credit courses.

**Note that these specific requirements – a) through f) - must be met:**

- a) **At least four courses must be at the graduate level** (xxx.6xx or higher, up to two Engineering for Professionals xx5.6xx or higher).

- b) **No more than four courses may be at the advanced undergraduate level** (full-time programs xxx.400 – xxx.499).
- c) EN.xx5.6xx or EN.xx5.7xx – courses from the [Engineering for Professionals \(EP\) program](#) – no more than two “EP” courses can count.
- d) **At least two courses should be in applied mathematics, numerical analysis, or computational methods.** This requirement can be waived in writing by your advisor, if sufficient prior preparation in these areas can be demonstrated.
- e) **Ineligible Courses:** AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation, AS.370.603 Public Speaking in Academia, EN.530.800 Independent Study, EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research, EN.530.822 Master’s Essay – Co-Op, EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research, EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer, and other departments’ Graduate Research, Independent Study, and Special Studies are not eligible courses to complete Section A’s requirement. Seminars are not counted toward the degree requirements. See Section B for information on how research courses could count for the degree.
- f) At least 4 courses if taking an “all-course option, or at least 3 courses if writing an essay – must be **Mechanical Engineering or related courses:**
  - EN.530.xxx Mechanical Engineering
  - Any of these courses:
    - EN.510.625 Advanced Batteries
    - EN.520.601 or EN.580.616 Introduction to Linear Systems
    - EN.520.627 Photovoltaics and Energy Devices
    - EN.520.773 Advanced Topics in Fabrication and Microengineering
    - EN.560.449 / EN.560.649 Energy Systems
    - EN.560.661 Additive Manufacturing and Design
    - EN.560.772 Nonlinear Finite Element Methods
    - EN.560.730 Finite Element Methods
    - EN.580.452 Cell and Tissue Engineering Lab
  - EN.535.xxx – courses from the [Engineering for Professionals \(EP\) program](#).

**SECTION B:** In addition to the courses above, students must also complete either two more courses or an essay:

### COURSE OPTION

**Two additional one-semester graduate-level courses** (xx.xxx.6xx or higher, Engineering for Professionals EN.xx5.6xx or higher).

- One of these courses can be **EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research**. Students must also have completed the appropriate Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Laboratory Safety courses. **NEW as of Fall 2025:** students must complete and submit a [MSE Mechanical Engineering – Research Course Agreement](#). See Section 3.4.2 of this manual for information.

- **Ineligible Courses:** EN.530.800 Independent Study, EN.530.801 Ph.D. Graduate Research, EN.530.822 Master's - Co-Op, or EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer and other departments' Graduate Research, Independent Study, and Special Studies courses are not eligible to complete Section B's requirement.

### ESSAY OPTION

An M.S.E. essay (the official title of master's theses at Johns Hopkins) acceptable to your advisor and one other eligible reader.

There are two options to complete the essay:

- **Conduct Laboratory Research**
  - Work with world-renowned engineering professors by conducting original research to produce an essay worthy of publication.
  - Students must register for the course EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research every semester that he or she works on master's essay research and writing. This is separate from the Ph.D. dissertation.
- **Work in a Cooperative Educational Environment (Co-Op)**
  - To broaden the practical training for master's students, the [Institute for Nanobiotechnology \(INBT\)](#) teams with companies to provide an immersive [master's industry "co-op" experience](#) in a professional working environment. Goals and objectives are developed for the student in conjunction with faculty and INBT academic advisors, which will be used to complete the master's essay.
  - Action Steps:
    - Students must obtain pre-approval for a Co-Op via the [Research Course Agreement form](#).
    - The scope of the Co-Op work internship should be commensurate with a 6-credit experience, which requires a minimum of 240 hours of training/internship activity.
    - Learning outcomes should be appropriate for MS-level education.
    - The required final report, which will be the Master's Essay, should provide sufficient detail to assess both the scope and quality of the work relative to the stated expectations, which should include the following.
      - Introduction
      - Internship Tasks and Technical Activities
      - Technical Details and Analysis, if applicable
      - Conclusions and Learning Outcomes
  - Course Registration
    - All students must register for...
      - EN.530.822 Master's Essay – Co-Op, plus...
      - *Either* EN.910.600 Non-Resident (Fall and Spring) *or* EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer (Summer) every semester that he

or she works in a co-op program to prepare to write a master's essay.

- Students cannot register for any other courses while on Co-op.
- Students must complete and submit a [MSE Mechanical Engineering – Research Course Agreement](#). See Section 3.4.2 of this manual for information.
- International students completing the degree with an Essay - Co-Op option must also enroll for EN.500.851 Engineering Research Practicum and apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Visit these sites for information: [applying for CPT](#) and [extending the F-1 visa](#).

The courses can be taken in one semester of six credits or split into three-credit courses over two semesters. If a student needs subsequent semesters to continue essay work, he or she can simply register for the same course each semester.

See Section 3.6.5 for information on the possibility of double-counting courses from a previous degree.

### 3.2.1. Grade Requirements for the Master's Degree

For All-Course and Essay-Research options, at least 9-11 of the 10-12 courses, or the equivalent of 27 credits or more, must have a grade of B- or higher to count toward the degree. The last course, or the equivalent of at least 3 credits, can be graded C- or higher.

For Essay-Co-Op, at least 7-9 of the 8-10 courses, or the equivalent of 21 or more credits must have a grade of B- or higher to count toward the degree. The last course, or the equivalent of 3 credits or more, can be graded C- or higher. The EN.530.822 Master's Essay Co-Op course is graded with a Pass grade and the EN.910.600 Non-Residency is not graded.

### 3.2.2. Center for Leadership Education Courses

The Center for Leadership Education offers [communication, business, and professional development courses](#) that are accepted toward the master's degree requirements.

- Up to six letter-graded credits will be accepted. Courses are either 1.5 or 3 credits, which means two to four courses could be used.
- Graduate level courses numbered EN.660.6xx, EN.661.6xx, EN.662.6xx, or EN.663.6xx or higher will be accepted.
- Pass/Fail grades are not accepted. All courses must be letter-graded.

### 3.2.3. Courses are Limited to STEM Courses.

It has always been understood that all courses taken to count toward the MSE Mechanical Engineering degree are "STEM" in nature: science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, other than eligible courses from the Center for Leadership Education.

Humanities and social science courses, including those studying history or social impact of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics are not eligible to be counted.

Rare cases to grant an exception to this restriction may be considered. A student must submit a request to both their academic advisor and the Director of Master's Studies explaining the desire and educational rationale for an exception *before* registering for and taking the course. Some requests might also need approval from the Whiting School of Engineering graduate affairs office.

Exceptions for such courses already in progress or courses previously taken will not be considered.

If an exception is granted, it must be recorded in full detail on a [Course Exception Waiver form](#) and submitted to the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) for filing.

### 3.3. Master's Degree Timeline

Students can generally expect to complete their degrees in these timeframes. Note that individual experiences may vary.

The master's degree timelines are available on the [MSE Sample Programs page](#).

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#### *Combined BS/MSE "5th Year Masters" – All-Course or Essay – Research and Writing (JHU MechE department alumni only)*

#### **Junior/Senior Undergraduate Years**

- Double-count two .400-level academic courses from the Bachelor's Degree.
- Take two courses that count for the master's degree but do not count for the Bachelor's Degree.

#### **Semester 1**

- Complete required introductory courses: Academic Ethics, Title IX & Harassment Prevention, Responsible Conduct of Research, and Opioid Epidemic Awareness
- Take 3 academic courses
- If taking or planning to take a research course or writing an essay, register for and complete:
  - Required eight Lab Safety online modules and optional EN.500.601 Research Lab Safety course.
  - AS.360.624 online Responsible Conduct of Research course.
  - (All-course or Essay – Research) EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research, 3 credits. \*

#### **Semester 2**

- All-Course: Take 3 academic courses and graduate.
- Essay:

- Take 1 academic course
- Register for EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research, 3 credits
- Continue essay research and begin writing the essay.
- Complete the essay, have readers approve, submit essay to the library, and then graduate. Note that some students writing an essay may need a third semester to complete the program.

\* If a student is taking a research course for the essay in their undergraduate years, they cannot register for graduate-level independent work. In this case, the department will accept EN.530.501 Undergraduate Research.

If students do not take two courses outside the bachelor's degree in their Undergraduate Years, they will likely have to return for a third semester. It is not recommended to take more than 3 courses in a semester. Please talk to your advisor first if you want to take more than 3 courses in one semester.

### *Combined BS/MSE "5th Year Masters" - Essay Co-Op option (JHU MechE department alumni only)*

#### **Junior/Senior Undergraduate Years**

- Double-count two .400-level academic courses from the Bachelor's Degree.
- Take at least two, but preferably three courses that count for the master's degree but do not count for the Bachelor's Degree.

#### **Summer Before the Master's Year (optional)**

- Take a 3-credit online graduate course with the Engineering for Professionals program.

#### **Semester 1**

- Complete required introductory courses: Academic Ethics, Title IX & Harassment Prevention, and Opioid Epidemic Awareness
- Take 3 or 4 academic courses.
  - *Either* take 3 courses if three extra master's courses were taken before this semester *or* take 4 courses if two extra master's courses were taken before this semester.
  - Note that taking 4 courses in a master's semester is challenging. Careful planning and time management will be necessary to succeed.
- Register for and complete:
  - ...required eight Lab Safety online modules and optional EN.500.601 Research Lab Safety course.
  - AS.360.624 online Responsible Conduct of Research course.
- Discuss essay topic with advisor and arrange for co-op

- Apply for non-resident status for Semester 2 co-op

### **Semester 2**

- Begin co-op and write the essay.
  - Register for EN.910.600 (Fall or Spring) or EN.530.897 (Summer) plus EN.530.822 Master's Essay - Co-Op (6 credits)
  - Complete the essay, have readers approve, submit essay to the library, then graduate.
- 

### *All-Course*

#### **Semester 1**

- Complete required introductory courses: Academic Ethics, Title IX & Harassment Prevention, Effort Reporting, and Opioid Epidemic Awareness.
- Take 3 academic courses
- If taking or planning to take a research course, complete required Lab Safety and Responsible Conduct of Research courses

**Semester 2** - take 3 courses

**Summer Term (optional)** - take a 3-credit online graduate course with the Engineering for Professionals program.

**Semester 3** - take 3 courses

**Semester 4** - take 1 course if not taken in the Summer Term.

Taking more than 3 courses in a semester is challenging and not recommended. Careful planning and time management is necessary for success. Please talk to your advisor first if you want to take more than 3 courses in one semester.

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### *Essay – Research and Writing*

#### **Semester 1**

- Complete required introductory courses: Academic Ethics, Title IX & Harassment Prevention, Effort Reporting, and Opioid Epidemic Awareness
- Take 3 academic courses

#### **Semester 2**

- Take 3 academic courses
- Complete required Lab Safety and Responsible Conduct of Research courses
- Discuss essay topic with advisor and possibly begin research.

### **Semester 3**

- Take 2 academic courses, begin or continue research, begin writing the essay.
- Begin or continue research, begin writing the essay and register for EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research, 3 credits.

### **Semester 4**

- If additional research is needed before or while writing the essay, register as a part-time student and take EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research (3 credits).
  - If all research is complete and only writing the essay is needed, register as a non-resident student. A student will be automatically enrolled in EN.910.600 Non-Resident Status (Fall or Spring). In summer, students working on campus and receiving pay must register for EN.530.897 Graduate Research - Summer (9 credits).
  - Complete the essay, have readers approve, submit essay to the library, then graduate.
- 

### ***Essay - Co-Op***

Students usually will complete 8-10 courses/24 credits before beginning the co-op experience.

### **Semester 1**

- Complete required introductory courses: Academic Ethics and Graduate Orientation, Title IX Sexual Harassment Prevention, Effort Reporting, and Opioid Awareness.
- Take 3 academic courses

### **Semester 2**

- Take 3 academic courses
- Complete required Lab Safety and Responsible Conduct of Research courses

### **Semester 3**

- Take 2 academic courses.
- International students will need to take a third academic course to remain in full-time status to keep compliant with F-1 visa rules. This third academic course will not count toward the master's degree but will be useful for academic enrichment.
- Discuss essay topic with advisor and arrange for co-op.
- Apply for non-resident status for the 4th semester co-op.

### **Semester 4**

- Begin co-op and write the essay.
- Register for EN.530.822 Master's Essay - Co-Op (6 credits).

- Apply for non-resident student status. A student will be automatically enrolled in EN.910.600 Non-Resident Status (Fall or Spring).
- In summer, students working on campus and receiving pay must register for EN.530.897 Graduate Research - Summer (6 credits) to avoid being assessed FICA Tax.
- Complete the essay, have readers approve, submit essay to the library, then graduate.

### 3.4. Graduate Research Courses

The courses taken to complete the M.S.E. degree requirements should be selected based on each individual student’s interests. Students should meet with their advisors early to plan their courses for the entire program, as many courses require prerequisites.

#### 3.4.1. Master’s Graduate Research Courses

The course **EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research**, a letter-graded course is used for both the “All-Course” and “Essay” options, which allows flexibility when students switch from between the degree options.

The course **EN.530.822 Master’s - Co-Op** is a Pass/Fail graded-course taken by co-op students.

Program	Register for this course
MSE All-Course - Research	EN.530.823
MSE Essay - Co-Op	EN.530.822
MSE Essay - Research and Writing	EN.530.823

#### 3.4.2. MSE Mechanical Engineering – Research Course Agreement

Any student enrolling in either EN.530.822 MSE Essay Co-Op or EN.530.823 MSE Research and Writing – either for the MSE Essay or MSE All-Course option - *must* complete and submit a [MSE Mechanical Engineering - Research Course Agreement](#).

The agreement must be completed by the student before the end of the Add-Drop period of the semester in which the research is conducted, usually the first two weeks of the semester.

The agreement will be completed in consultation with the research advisor to ensure consistent understanding of the research scope, expectations, deliverables and deadlines. The form records neither the research results nor the advisor’s assessment of the student’s research performance. The research advisor will assign the course grade at the end of the semester.

The student must collect all signatures on the form. When the form is completed and signed, it must be sent to the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) for filing, as it is a required document necessary to confirm graduation eligibility.

Questions on about scope of the agreement will be addressed by the Director of Master's Studies, Prof. Rajat Mittal.

### 3.4.3. Master's Graduate Research - "All-Course" Option

EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research is intended to give a research experience to those pursuing an "all-course" master's degree.

- Only 3 credits of EN.530.823 can count as one of the courses needed for the "all-course" master's degree requirement.
- This is an excellent course to gauge one's interest in research. It could result in a student's desire to pursue more research by switching from an "all-course" to an "essay" master's program or even to a Ph.D. program.

The course lasts one semester. The research must be conducted at the level of at least a master's degree, as determined by a student's research supervisor, which may be one's academic advisor or another professor.

The [MSE Mechanical Engineering - Research Course Agreement](#) must be completed to take this course. When registering for the course, the research supervisor's "section" should be selected to allow him or her to grade the course when complete. The course is subject to the usual academic performance requirements to count toward the degree.

### 3.4.4. Master's Graduate Research - "Essay" Options

These courses are intended to recognize the research and writing work to those pursuing an "essay" master's degree.

- EN.530.822 Master's Essay - Co-Op
- EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research - Research and Writing

Students must enroll in the appropriate course when doing essay research or co-op for each semester where such work is done, typically in the last one or two semesters. While the courses can grant 3-10 credits per semester, most students will register for either 3 or 6 credits. A maximum of 6 credits of Master's Essay work will be counted for the degree requirement.

Students must check with their faculty advisors to confirm when to register for the appropriate course and the [MSE Mechanical Engineering - Research Course Agreement](#) must be completed.

These courses do not count as one of the eight courses required in addition to the essay. The course can be taken in one semester of six credits or split into three-credit courses taken over two semesters. If a student needs subsequent semesters to continue essay work, he or she can simply register for the same course each semester.

According to the Graduate Board's Procedures for Administration of Approved Policies for the Award of Advanced Degrees, "Thesis [essay] readers are selected and appointed by the chair or appropriate faculty of the sponsoring department or committee. Any duly appointed member of a department or committee holding the rank of assistant professor or higher (excluding lecturers) is eligible for selection as a referee without prior approval. The Graduate Board Office must approve readers from outside the University, or from any non-Ph.D. sponsoring department, laboratory or institute within the University."

## 3.5. Tracks

The Mechanical Engineering department at Johns Hopkins University is renowned for its excellence in both research and education across a broad spectrum of mechanical engineering-related disciplines. Our [MSE Mechanical Engineering tracks](#) harness this deep expertise to provide master's students with an exceptional opportunity to tailor their program of study to their specific technical interests.

### 3.5.1. Track Requirements

A student taking a track would be required to take a specific number of courses depending on their degree option.

- **ALL-COURSE:** 5 courses totaling at least 15 credits in the chosen Track
- **ESSAY - RESEARCH:** 4 courses totaling at least 12 credits plus 6 credits of Track-related research via EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research
- **ESSAY - CO-OP:** 4 courses totaling at least 12 credits plus 6 credits of Track-related research via EN.530.822 Master's Essay - Co-Op.

Students will select their Tracks under the guidance of their academic advisor during the first or second semesters of their program. Note: these Tracks are different from the "Areas of Interest" that applicants are asked to select on their graduate applications. Though some areas of interest have the same or similar titles to the course specializations below, they each address different items.

Tracks are optional, and students can earn up to two tracks per degree. Courses appearing in more than one track can be double-counted in two tracks if a student is taking two tracks that include the same course.

Students should be aware of the master's degree requirements when selecting a track and related courses, as there are limits on the number of courses that can be taken from the Engineering for Professionals. See Section 3.2 of this manual.

Students successfully completing a Track will receive a Certificate of Track Completion from the Department at the time of graduation. The track will not appear on the diploma nor on the transcript.

### 3.5.2. About the Tracks

These are the tracks that can be completed:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace Engineering
- Biomechanical Engineering
- Computation, Data Science, and Machine Learning
- Energy and the Environment
- Fluid Mechanics and Thermal Science
- Interdisciplinary Track
- Mechanical Design
- Mechanics and Materials
- Nano-Science and Engineering
- Robotics and Intelligent Systems
- Space Engineering

For courses listed in each track, if there are two course numbers for one course, the first is the undergraduate level (e.g. EN.530.438) and the second is the graduate level (e.g. EN.530.638) of the same course. Typically, course content is more advanced and there are usually more complex assignments in the graduate level compared to the undergraduate level.

### 3.5.3. Eligible Courses for the Tracks

Visit the [Tracks page](#) > *The MSE Mechanical Engineering Tracks* for a list of eligible courses for each track. This webpage will be updated with new courses and with course changes.

### 3.5.4. Certificate of Track Completion

Visit the [Tracks page](#) > *The MSE Mechanical Engineering Tracks* for a Certificate of Track Completion, which must be completed to be recognized for the Tracks earned. The Track certificate is the sole recognition of the completion of the tracks, as this is an internal Mechanical Engineering recognition. Neither the transcript nor the diploma will display the Track completion.

*Please see the next page...*

### 3.6. Frequency of Course Offerings

Graduate courses are offered in specific semesters, and sometimes in alternating years. These offerings are subject to change due to instructor sabbaticals or other situations. Please confirm these offerings when planning your course schedule.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING – COURSES – ANTICIPATED OFFERINGS					
Semester	Math/ Computational / Design	Robotics, Systems and Controls	Fluid Mechanics / Energy	Mechanics and Materials	Biomechanical Engineering
<b>Fall 2026 (confirmed)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.414 Computer Aided Design</li> <li>- EN.530.430 Applied Finite Element Analysis</li> <li>- EN.530.761 Math Methods for Engineers</li> <li>- EN.530.766 Numerical Methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.420 Robot Sensors and Actuators</li> <li>- EN.530.424 / 624 Dynamics of Robots and Spacecraft</li> <li>- EN.530.468 / 668 Locomotion Mechanics: Fundamentals</li> <li>- EN.530.616 Introduction to Linear Systems Theory</li> <li>- EN.530.626 Optimal Control for Space Systems</li> <li>- EN.530.641 Statistical Learning for Engineers</li> <li>- EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control</li> <li>- EN.530.676 Locomotion Dynamics and Control</li> <li>- EN.530.727 Aerobotics: Aerial Vehicles, Fluid Dynamics, and Safe Control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.437 / 637 Energy Meteorology</li> <li>- EN.530.443 / 643 Fundamentals, Design Principles, and Applications of Microfluidic Systems</li> <li>- EN.530.483 / 683 Applied Computational Modeling in Aerodynamics and Heat Transfer</li> <li>- EN.530.621 Fluid Dynamics I</li> <li>- EN.530.625 Turbulence</li> <li>- EN.530.766 Numerical Methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.448 / 648 Biosolid Mechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.605 Mechanics of Solids and Materials</li> <li>- EN.530.615 Mechanics of Space Structures</li> <li>- EN.530.748 Stress Waves, Impacts and Shockwaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.520.495 Microfabrication Laboratory</li> <li>- EN.530.409 Introduction to Mechanobiology</li> <li>- EN.530.448 / 648 Biosolid Mechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.493 / 693 Fabrication of Biomaterials, Engineered Tissues and Food</li> </ul>
<b>Spring 2027 (anticipated)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.421 Mechatronics</li> <li>- EN.530.423 / 623 Design of Marine Robots</li> <li>- EN.530.468 / 668 Locomotion Mechanics: Fundamentals</li> <li>- EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics and Control</li> <li>- EN.530.663 Robot Motion Planning</li> <li>- EN.530.666 Magnetically Actuated and MRI Compatible Robots</li> <li>- EN.530.692 Flexible Robotics System Modeling</li> <li>- EN.530.696 Learning-Based Control for Robotics</li> <li>- EN.530.707 Robot Systems Programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.427 / 627 Intermediate Fluid Mechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.607 Intro to Wind Energy</li> <li>- EN.530.622 Fluid Dynamics II</li> <li>- EN.530.767 Computational Fluid Dynamics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.438 / 638 Aerospace Materials</li> <li>- EN.530.606 Mechanics of Solids and Materials II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.431 Biomechanics of Development</li> <li>- EN.530.448 / 648 Biosolid Mechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.468 / 668 Locomotion Mechanics: Fundamentals</li> </ul>

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING - COURSES - ANTICIPATED OFFERINGS					
Semester	Math/ Computational / Design	Robotics, Systems and Controls	Fluid Mechanics / Energy	Mechanics and Materials	Biomechanical Engineering
<b>Fall 2027 (anticipated)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.414 Computer Aided Design</li> <li>- EN.530.430 Applied Finite Element Analysis</li> <li>- EN.530.641 Statistical Learning for Engineers</li> <li>- EN.530.761 Math Methods for Engineers</li> <li>- EN.530.766 Numerical Methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.420 Robot Sensors and Actuators</li> <li>- EN.530.424 / EN.530.624 Dynamics of Robots and Spacecraft</li> <li>- EN.530.468 / EN.530.668 Locomotion Mechanics: Fundamentals</li> <li>- EN.530.616 Introduction to Linear Systems Theory</li> <li>- EN.530.626 Optimal Control for Space Systems</li> <li>- EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control</li> <li>- EN.530.691 Haptic Interface Design for Human-Robot Interaction</li> <li>- EN.530.721 Medical Robotics Systems Design</li> <li>- EN.530.727 Aerobotics: Aerial Vehicles, Fluid Dynamics, and Safe Control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.418 / EN.530.619 Aerospace Structures</li> <li>- EN.530.437 / EN.530.637 Energy Meteorology</li> <li>- EN.530.443 / EN.530.643 Fundamentals, Design Principles, and Applications of Microfluidic Systems</li> <li>- EN.530.465 Spacecrafts, Submarines, and Glaciers: Solid Mechanics in Extreme Environments</li> <li>- EN.530.483 / EN.530.683 Computational Modeling in Aerodynamics and Heat Transfer</li> <li>- EN.530.621 Fluid Dynamics I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.418 / EN.530.619 Aerospace Structures</li> <li>- EN.530.605 Mechanics of Solids and Materials I</li> <li>- EN.530.615 Mechanics of Space Structures</li> <li>- EN.530.656 Deformation Mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.409 Introduction to Mechanobiology</li> <li>- EN.530.429 Musculoskeletal Biomechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.468 / EN.530.668 Locomotion Mechanics: Fundamentals</li> <li>- EN.530.610 Quantitative Cell Mechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.633 Mechanics of the Biological Systems and Biophysical Methodologies</li> </ul>
<b>Spring 2028 (anticipated)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.480 Image Processing and Data Visualization</li> <li>- EN.530.484 Machine Learning for Mechanical Engineers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.421 Mechatronics</li> <li>- EN.530.423 / 623 Design of Marine Robots</li> <li>- EN.530.469 / 669 Locomotion Mechanics: Recent Advances</li> <li>- EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control</li> <li>- EN.530.647 Adaptive Systems and Control</li> <li>- EN.530.663 Robot Motion Planning</li> <li>- EN.530.692 Learning-Based Control for Robotics</li> <li>- EN.530.707 Robot System Programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.427 / 627 Intermediate Fluid Mechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.432 Jet and Rocket Propulsion</li> <li>- EN.530.462 / 662 Atmospheric Modeling Lab</li> <li>- EN.530.607 Introduction to Wind Energy</li> <li>- EN.530.622 Fluid Dynamics II</li> <li>- EN.530.632 Convection</li> <li>- EN.530.767 Computational Fluid Dynamics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.604 Mechanical Properties of Materials</li> <li>- EN.530.606 Mechanics of Solids and Materials II</li> <li>- EN.530.712 Computational Solid Mechanics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EN.530.431 Biomechanics of Development</li> <li>- EN.530.445 Introduction to Biomechanics</li> <li>- EN.530.480 Image Processing and Data Visualization</li> <li>- EN.530.672 Biosensing and BioMEMS</li> </ul>

Table 1 – Anticipated Course Frequencies

## 3.7. Course Information and Policies

### 3.7.1. Course Levels

Subject to the degree requirement restrictions, one-semester advanced courses include:

#### Graduate

- Full-time program courses numbered xx.xxx.6xx and higher (e.g. EN.530.656)
- Engineering for Professionals program courses numbered EN.xx5.6xx and higher (e.g. EN.535.612).

#### Undergraduate

- Full-time program courses numbered xx.xxx.400-xx.xxx.499

### 3.7.2. Applied Mathematics, Numerical Analysis, and Computational Methods - Acceptable Courses

The master's degree requirements state that at least two courses should be in applied mathematics, numerical analysis, or computational methods. Any of these courses can be applied to that requirement, though this is not an exhaustive list:

#### Upper-level Undergraduate Courses

- EN.530.424 Dynamics of Robots and Spacecraft
- EN.530.430 Applied Finite Element Analysis
- EN.530.480 Image Processing and Data Visualization
- EN.530.484 Machine Learning for Mechanical Engineers

#### Graduate Courses

- EN.530.605 Mechanics of Solids and Materials
- EN.530.606 Mechanics of Solids and Materials II
- EN.530.616 Introduction to Linear Systems Theory
- EN.530.624 Dynamics of Robots and Spacecraft (graduate)
- EN.530.641 Statistical Learning for Engineers
- EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control
- EN.530.653 Advanced Systems Modeling I
- EN.530.654 Advanced Systems Modeling II
- EN.530.676 Locomotion Dynamics and Control
- EN.530.696 Learning Based Control for Robotics
- EN.530.761 Math Methods for Engineers
- EN.530.766 Numerical Methods
- EN.530.767 Computational Fluid Dynamics

*Please see the next page...*

## Applied Math, Computational, and Numerical Analysis (continued)

### Courses Outside Mechanical Engineering

EP = Engineering for Professionals

- Most upper-undergraduate or graduate level courses offered by the Applied Mathematics department (EN.553.4xx or higher)
- EN.520.601 Introduction to Linear Systems Theory
- EN.520.621 Introduction to Nonlinear Systems
- EN.535.609 Topics in Data Analysis (EP)
- EN.535.610 Computational Methods of Analysis (EP)
- EN.535.632 Applied Finite Elements (EP)
- EN.535.641 Mathematical Methods for Engineers (EP)
- EN.535.742 Applied Machine Learning for Mechanical Engineers
- EN.535.743 Intermediate Applied Artificial Intelligence in Mechanical Engineering
- EN.535.766 Numerical Methods
- EN.560.601 Applied Math for Engineers
- EN.560.618 Probabilistic Methods in Civil Engineering
- EN.560.772 Nonlinear Finite Element Methods
- EN.560.730 or EN.560.773 Finite Element Methods
- EN.570.697 Risk and Decision Analysis
- EN.601.461 Computer Vision (undergraduate)
- EN.601.463 Algorithms for Sensor Based Robotics (undergraduate)
- EN.601.464 Artificial Intelligence (undergraduate)
- EN.601.661 Computer Vision (graduate)
- EN.601.663 Algorithms for Sensor Based Robotics (graduate)
- EN.601.664 Artificial Intelligence (graduate)
- EN.601.475 or EN.601.476 Machine Learning (undergraduate)
- EN.601.675 or EN.601.676 Machine Learning (graduate)
- EN.601.783 Vision as Bayesian Inference
- EN.605.661 Computer Vision (EP)
- EN.615.441 Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering (EP)
- EN.675.761 Reliability Engineering and Analysis (EP)
- Some upper-undergraduate or graduate level courses offered by the Computer Science department (EN.601.4xx or higher)

**Note:** EN.530.414 Computer Aided Design does not count for this requirement.

The department suggests that you consult with your academic advisor before taking any of these approved courses to ensure they fit within the plans for your full degree plans and requirements.

To count a course that is not included on this list, you must discuss your request with your academic advisor *before* taking the course. If the academic advisor approves such a course, please have your advisor notify the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) so a record can be kept of this approval.

### **3.7.3. Recommendation on EN.530.646 RDKDC and EN.601.463/663 ASBR**

It is strongly recommended that students take EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control and EN.601.463/663 Algorithms for Sensor-Based Robotics in separate semesters. Students should not take them simultaneously as the workload will be too large and there will be a risk of poor academic performance if both are taken in the same semester.

### **3.7.4. Only One C-type Grade Can Count Toward the M.S.E.**

No more than one C-type grade (C+, C, or C-) can be counted toward the master's degree course requirements. See the "Academic Performance Requirements" section of this manual for the department's academic performance expectations.

### **3.7.5. "Pass" Grades Are Not Accepted**

Pass grades are not accepted for courses counting toward the Master's degree.

### **3.7.6. Double-Counting Courses**

There may be opportunities to double-count up to two courses taken for previous degrees, but only with the permission of the master's academic advisor.

The Mechanical Engineering department follows the Whiting School of Engineering policy on double-counting courses on the [Whiting School Graduate Policies page](#).

Beginning in Spring 2024, note that while the Whiting School will allow up to three courses to be double-counted, departments can choose to accept fewer than three. The department of Mechanical Engineering will accept up to two graduate-level courses for a total of at least six credits that are letter-graded B- or higher. Under special circumstances, the department will consider accepting a third course on a case-by-case basis.

To request approval to double-count a course, a student must provide the course's syllabus, the transcript showing the course's grade, and a course plan, checkout sheet, or other document that will confirm that the course did not count for a previous degree. The student's academic advisor will review the request in consultation with the Director of Master's Studies. If the course is approved, the academic advisor will record the approval on a [Course Exception Waiver form](#), which will be provided to the academic staff to file.

Your academic advisor or the academic staff (at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu)) can answer questions about this policy.

### **3.7.7. Engineering for Professionals – Many Great Courses**

Many interesting and relevant online Mechanical Engineering and other engineering courses are available via our [Engineering for Professionals program](#).

- Up to two Engineering for Professionals courses can be counted toward the master's degree.
- Visit the [EP Courses page](#) to find available courses. The page can be filtered to select [Mechanical Engineering courses](#).
- Please discuss proposed Engineering for Professionals courses with our faculty advisor to confirm that they would qualify for your degree.
- The course registration process is different from the standard registration in the Student Information System (SIS). Visit the [Mechanical Engineering Graduate Academic Advising page](#) > *Course Registration – Registering for Engineering for Professionals (EP) Courses* for instructions to register.
- Visit the [Tuition and Fees page](#) for current tuition costs.

### 3.7.8. EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer – required for those earning pay

The course EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer is used as a non-graded, no-assignment, no-homework placeholder “course” that has no function other to recognize students as full-time, enrolled graduate students. This is necessary to fulfill a US federal requirement that students be enrolled full-time, year-round to be exempt from “FICA” or Social Security Tax from student salaries.

All Master's students who are employed by Johns Hopkins University during the summer must enroll for this tuition-free course for nine credits each summer, where there is just one section. The academic staff will submit Pass grades at the end of the summer term, which will be reflected in student transcripts.

FICA Tax will be withheld from pay of any student who does not enroll for this course.

## 3.8. Academic Performance Requirements

A course is satisfactorily completed if a grade from A+ to B- is obtained. Grades of C+ or lower are evidence of unsatisfactory academic performance.

Unsatisfactory academic performance is noted when a student cumulatively earns...

- one grade of D or F; or
- one grade of D or F and one grade of C+ or lower; or
- any two C+ grades or lower

A student earning course grades below B- as described in the table below will receive notification of academic probation, with an explanation that additional course grades below B- will result in termination from the program.

Note: it is possible to earn enough grades below B- in one semester to qualify for termination without receiving probation.

A copy of the notification will be provided to the student's academic advisor, the department's Director of Graduate Studies, the Department Head, and the Whiting School

Office of Graduate Affairs. A student advocate from the Whiting School Office of Graduate Affairs is available to offer support as needed.

Grades Cumulatively Earned	This will result in termination
One D or one F	An additional D or F <i>or</i> Two additional course grades C+, C, or C-
One D or one F <i>and</i> one C+, C, or C-	One additional course grade of C+ or lower
Two C+, C, or C-	One additional course grade of C+ or lower

### 3.9. Having Academic or Other Troubles? Seek Help Early!

#### Don't Wait! If you...

- ...are struggling with course work or exams,
- ...have trouble attending lectures,
- ...have emotional or mental health struggles,
- ...have financial or living space problems,
- ...are not getting along with your roommates,
- ...have family concerns,
- ...feel overwhelmed

Ask for help early! It's okay to ask for help. We all want you to succeed!

- For help with courses, struggles with assignments, and help with anxiety about exams, talk to your academic advisor, course instructor, or teaching assistant.
- For other concerns mentioned above, you can contact these people for help:
  - Chase Oatis, Student Life Administrator - [coatis1@jhu.edu](mailto:coatis1@jhu.edu)
  - Christine Kavanagh, Associate Vice Dean of Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning - [christinekavanagh@jhu.edu](mailto:christinekavanagh@jhu.edu).

### 3.10. Course Registration and Credits

#### 3.10.1. Credits

All Whiting School of Engineering graduate students will register for courses with credits.

- The Mechanical Engineering degree requirements do not change for the number or types of courses.
- All Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) graduate-level courses (.600-level or higher) have credits assigned to them.
- To maintain **full-time status**, all WSE graduate students must be **enrolled in at least 9 credits**. This is also known as full-time "residency."
- Students can achieve full-time status by registering for any combination of courses and seminars, as approved by one's advisor. SIS is set to select appropriate credits:
  - Seminars - 1 credit
  - WSE courses, both undergraduate and graduate - 3 or 4 credits

- EN.530.822 Master's Essay – Co-Op – 3-10 credits
- EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research – 3-10 credits (all-course or essay-research)
- NOTE: Krieger School of Arts and Sciences' graduate-level courses will not have credits listed in SIS, but will be recognized as 3-4 credits toward one's full-time credit load.
- Students enrolled in fewer than 9 credits per semester are part-time, which may affect residency requirements for all and visa concerns for international students. Please consult with your faculty advisor or the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) before changing a course from "letter grade" to "audit."
- The maximum per-semester master's student enrollment limit is 18 credits. If there is a need to register for more than 18 credits, please contact academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu). The Whiting School will consider exceptions.
- Visit the [Whiting School's Credit Hours page](#) for more information.

### 3.10.2. Interdivisional Course Registration

Students may need to register in another division, like the Engineering for Professionals program or in any of Hopkins's eight other schools. Registration for courses in these areas must be done using an Interdivisional Registration form and sent to the Registrar directly at [grregistration@jhu.edu](mailto:grregistration@jhu.edu). Visit the [Interdivisional Registration page](#) for information.

## 3.11. MSE Essay

### 3.11.1. Eligible MSE Essay Readers

While the University requires one reader for master's essays, departments are allowed to enforce stricter standards by requiring more than one reader.

The Mechanical Engineering department requires two readers, the first one being the person (ordinarily a member of the Department's faculty) who supervised the student's project. The second reader is usually a member of a department holding the rank of assistant professor or higher (excluding lecturers). The advisor will consult with the Department Head if there are questions of eligibility for a proposed second reader, or if the proposed second reader is from outside Johns Hopkins University.

### 3.11.2. How to Find an Essay Advisor

Finding an Essay research topic and advisor generally involves the following steps:

- Attend our annual MSE Expo that is held once per year, usually between November and January.
- Read up on the [research areas](#) in Mechanical Engineering at JHU.
- Take a deeper dive into the individual [Faculty Member Profiles](#) on our website.
  - Review the faculty member's Google Profile to see their most highly cited paper. Then sort their Google Profile reverse chronologically so that you can

see what they have published in the past 1-3 years - this is what they are working on now.

- For each faculty member of interest, download and read several of their recent research papers. If this research interests you highly, then proceed to reach out to them.
- Reach out to faculty members whose general research area(s) are of interest to you, after you have had a chance to learn about their research.
- Have a series of discussions with potential advisor(s) about a possible MSE research topic.
- After agreeing to a project, sign up for MSE Graduate Research with said advisor, and commence research.

It is very difficult to create your own independent research project and "shop it around" to potential advisors. The reason for this is that successful graduate research generally involves building off of and integrating with an active research program in a certain area. Within this framework, and through a set of constructive conversations with our faculty, MSE students are able to pursue exciting, innovative research projects that form the basis of a Master's Essay.

### 3.11.3. Avoid Tuition Payments in Grace Period

You may avoid paying tuition in your last semester if you complete and submit your essay in the Grace Period:

- Fall - within the first eight weeks of the semester
- Spring - within the first four weeks of the semester

If you plan to submit your essay during the tuition Grace Period, instead of paying tuition, you can submit a Tuition Deferral Form, available on the ["Preparing for Graduation" page](#) → "*Master's - Essay Option*" section. A department representative must sign the form before submitting it to the Student Accounts office.

### 3.11.4. Submission of Essays

Master's essays will be submitted only by electronic media. For information, contact the Library ETC office at 410-516-7720 or [dissertations@jhu.edu](mailto:dissertations@jhu.edu).

## 3.12. Degree Completion

### 3.12.1. Degree Completion Deadlines

The master's degree completion schedule and deadlines are available at the [Whiting School's Graduate Academic polices page](#). Be sure to meet the deadlines when completing your degree and related applications to graduate.

### 3.12.2. Degree Completion Time Limit

The Whiting School of Engineering states that students must earn the master's degree within five consecutive academic years (10 semesters). Only semesters during which a student has a university-approved leave of absence are exempt from the ten-semester limit; otherwise, all semesters from the beginning of the student's graduate studies – whether the student is a resident or not – count toward the ten-semester limit.

### 3.12.3. Degree Completion Poll and Application for Graduation

Students who have completed the requirements for the M.S.E. degree should complete the “Application for Graduation” in SIS or through SEAM.

The master’s degree completion deadlines are available at the [Whiting School Graduate Policies page](#). Be sure to meet the deadlines when completing your degree and related applications to graduate.

Also, when notified by the department, students must respond to a poll that the academic staff will create to confirm their intent to graduate each semester or term. Note that the poll response is required as the academic staff uses that information to confirm students’ degree completion eligibility. If students do not respond to the poll, they will not graduate even if they completed all other requirements that semester.

Visit the [“Preparing to Graduate” page](#) for more information.

### 3.12.4. International Students should contact the Office of International Services

All international students should contact the Office of International Services (OIS) at least two months in advance of the end of their final semester to confirm if an application for an EAD card and Optional Practical Training is needed. If so, an application should be started.

When applying for Optional Practical Training, please notify your advisor that you are doing so. As part of the application processing, the advisor will receive a request from the OIS from the iHopkins system. Please ensure that your advisor is aware of your degree level, major field of study (of course, Mechanical Engineering), expected date of degree completion, if you have completed all course work, and your progress on your master’s essay.

### 3.12.5. Exit Survey and Interview

Graduating students will complete a required exit survey and are invited to have an optional interview with the Director of Graduate Studies or designated interviewer. Students will be invited to complete the survey during the last few weeks of the semester in which they expect to graduate and an interview will be arranged after the survey is completed.

### 3.13. Switching from an M.S.E. to Ph.D. Degree

Master's students may be given an opportunity to switch to the Ph.D. program. Students with sufficient interest who demonstrate exemplary academic performance may request to switch their degree program after at least one semester. Most students who switch do so usually by the end of their third semester, in time to take the Departmental Qualifier Examination (see the JHU Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. Student Advising Manual for information).

The process to switch programs is as follows:

- The student seeks a Mechanical Engineering professor willing to advise a Ph.D. student.
  - Visit [the department's Faculty page](#) for information on what research the faculty are doing.
  - Students are welcome to contact specific faculty whose research is of interest to discuss the possibility of working with them as a Ph.D. student. If the faculty member and student agree to work together, the application and admission process can begin.
- The student writes an updated Statement of Purpose that expresses his or her goals for academic knowledge and research at the Ph.D. level.
- The professor writes a recommendation letter stating his or her willingness to advise the student.
- The student will enter an online application to the University graduate application system.
  - Visit the [Graduate Application](#) page of the Graduate Admissions page for instructions to submit an application. A standard Ph.D. application will be submitted, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering will waive the application fee. To get help with the application itself, contact Graduate Admissions directly at [WSEGrad-Admissions@jhu.edu](mailto:WSEGrad-Admissions@jhu.edu).
  - Please notify the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) when creating the application so they can notify Graduate Admissions of the application fee waiver.
- The student will receive and accept admission to the Ph.D. program.
- The Graduate Admissions office, Registrar, and the Office of International Services (for international students) will be notified of the change in degree.
- The Academic Program staff will arrange financial aid, including full tuition, health insurance, dental and vision coverage, and a stipend.
- The student will begin studies and research in the Ph.D. program to which he or she is admitted.

### 3.14. Dual MSE for Current Hopkins Students in other Departments

Current Hopkins PhD students in other departments may be eligible to earn a MSE Mechanical Engineering. “Dual” status means that a PhD student earns a master’s degree outside his or her primary department’s PhD program simultaneously with his or her PhD work.

To apply for the “dual” MSE in Mechanical Engineering, take these steps:

- Notify the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) that you plan to submit the application and send a copy of your current unofficial Johns Hopkins transcript. The academic staff will determine which courses will count toward the MSE Mechanical Engineering degree.
- Visit the [Internal Graduate Application](#) page of the Graduate Admissions page for instructions to submit an application. You will be asked to provide these items for your application:
  - A new statement of purpose
  - At least one letter of recommendation.
  - Your current unofficial Hopkins transcript.
  - A letter from the chairman of the PhD department that you are allowed to earn the MSE in Mechanical Engineering
- After the application is submitted, it will be considered for admission. You will be notified upon admission to accept the application.
- The academic staff will serve as the academic advisor to confirm your degree completion.
- When the degree requirements are completed, students will follow the steps in the department’s [Preparing for Graduation page](#) > *Master’s – All Course* to complete the graduation process.

## 4. Full-Time, Part-Time, Non-Resident, Leave of Absence

### 4.1. Full-Time Status

To maintain full-time status, all WSE graduate students must be enrolled in at least 9 credits. **Master’s students** will be enrolled in **at least 9 credits per semester** by registering for any combination of courses and seminars, as approved by one’s advisor.

#### NOTE:

- **International Students:** if you wish to drop or withdraw from a course where the resulting course load is less than the required 9-credits, please first consult with the Office of International Services to discuss whether this decision will keep you compliant with F-1 visa regulations.
- Audited courses do not count toward your full-time credit load nor toward the degree requirements. No academic credit will be given but tuition will be charged per-credit if taking less than a full-time credit load of 9 credits.
- Krieger School of Arts and Sciences’ graduate-level courses will not have credits listed in SIS, but will be recognized as 3-4 credits toward one’s full-time credit load.

- When dropping and adding courses, SIS will not allow you to drop courses if the resulting credit load drops below the 9-credit full-time threshold. Add new courses first, and then drop the courses you wish to drop.
- If you wish to change to part-time status, see Section 4.2 – Part-Time Status and Tuition to learn more.

## 4.2. Part-Time Status and Tuition

Master's students of the Department of Mechanical Engineering may become eligible for part-time status.

### “ALL-COURSE” MASTER’S STUDENTS

- **International Students**
  - International master's students must register *full-time* all semesters – except for possibly the final semester - for a minimum of nine credits.
  - If in an international master's student's final semester, fewer than nine credits are needed to complete the degree requirements, students can switch to *part-time* status.
- **Domestic Students (U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents)** - After meeting the minimum two-semester residency requirement - where a student pays full-time tuition for a minimum of two semesters – American master's students can register *part-time* by enrolling in eight credits or fewer per semester.

### “ESSAY” MASTER’S STUDENTS

Whiting School master's students who have not yet reached the stage in their research or co-op to where the sole remaining activity is the writing and submission of the essay, must maintain “residency” status by registering for the appropriate number of credits per semester per the rules listed above in the “All-Course” Master's Students section.

Students who have completed research to where the sole remaining activity is essay writing can switch to non-resident status as explained below.

### PART-TIME TUITION

Students are charged tuition per-credit. See the [Student Accounts Tuition and Fees page](#) for info on tuition costs per-credit.

### PART-TIME RESTRICTIONS

- Part-time American students are ineligible to work as a student worker, including as a Teaching Assistant, and will not be eligible for graduate student salary.
- Part-time International students in their final semester are eligible to work as a student worker only in hourly-paid positions.
- Part-time students enrolled in the University health insurance must pay the full premium.

## HOW TO OBTAIN PART-TIME STATUS

- Contact the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) to confirm eligibility to switch.
- International students must first obtain approval from the International Office by completing a [Reduced Course Load E-form](#).

RESOURCES - [Whiting School Graduate Credit Hours](#)

### 4.3. Non-Residency Status and Tuition

#### “ALL-COURSE” MASTER’S STUDENTS

Students taking the “all-course” master’s degree are not eligible for non-residency status.

#### “ESSAY” MASTER’S STUDENTS

Whiting School graduate students are eligible for non-residency status when all degree requirements except the writing of the master’s essay are complete. The essay research must be finished before the non-resident status can be requested.

Whiting School graduate students are typically granted only one semester of non-residency with the expectation that the essay will be written, read, and approved in that semester. The Whiting School will consider exception requests for an additional semester of non-residency.

#### NON-RESIDENT TUITION

Non-resident students pay only 10% of the full-time tuition but will still have all the privileges of full-time students such as access to campus services and faculty advising.

#### COURSE REGISTRATION

Non-resident students must register in EN.910.600 Non-Resident Status (in Spring and Fall semesters) or EN.500.805 Non-Resident Status (in Summer terms) for 9 credits.

#### NON-RESIDENT RESTRICTIONS

Non-resident students cannot enroll in courses for academic credit.

Non-resident students are automatically enrolled in health insurance, but can waive the insurance, if eligible for waiver, by proof of enrollment in another health insurance plan with similar coverage. Non-resident students would be financially responsible for the health insurance premium.

To maintain non-resident status, students will have to register for non-resident status each semester and provide a letter explaining their progress toward the degree’s completion.

*Please see the next page...*

## HOW TO OBTAIN NON-RESIDENT STATUS

- Contact academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) to if you are unsure of your eligibility for non-resident status. They will help you confirm, if you need.
- Complete the [Non-Resident Status application form](#), which the academic staff will send to the Whiting School Academic Affairs office for approval.
- If the Non-Resident request is denied, a student may be eligible for part-time status.

### 4.4. Leave of Absence

Occasionally, extenuating circumstances may require graduate students to take a leave of absence from their studies.

Graduate students may apply for up to two semesters of [leave of absence](#) when medical conditions, compulsory military service, or personal or family hardship prevents them from continuing their graduate studies.

The forms will explain that student privileges, degree progress, and access to health insurance may be affected. Contact the Registrar's health insurance staff at [ASENInsurance@jhu.edu](mailto:ASENInsurance@jhu.edu) to discuss your situation and determine what options exist.

Please complete the form, obtain the appropriate signatures, and obtain the required documentation as noted on the form, and send the completed form and supporting documentation to the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu).

## 5. Miscellaneous Academic Information

### 5.1. General Policy Information

The Whiting School of Engineering and Johns Hopkins University set and administer a variety of policies that affect students. The following websites provide information on these policies; but are not all-inclusive. Your academic staff can help with policy questions and interpretations.

- [Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs at Homewood](#)
- [Whiting School of Engineering's Graduate Academic Policies](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University E-Catalog section for Graduate Students](#)

### 5.2. Graduate Student Annual Evaluations - due July 31

The Whiting School of Engineering requires that once per academic year all full-time Homewood graduate programs carry out a written evaluation of all doctoral and master's students conducting essay research. The evaluation process includes the opportunity for the advisor to initiate the student evaluation on his or her research and academic progress.

Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program Committee, with the support of the faculty and the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association (MEGA) created a formal annual evaluation form, thinking it is good practice and a worthwhile investment. The evaluation

form is in the back of this manual and on the [Mechanical Engineering Graduate Advising](#) page.

In Spring, advisors will initiate the evaluation process with their doctoral students and master's students conducting essay research, who will be expected to complete the evaluation form and meet with their advisors to discuss progress and goals for the next year. The student and advisor will both sign the evaluation, after which it will be delivered to the academic staff by July 31.

### 5.3. Departmental Seminars

Part of the Johns Hopkins graduate experience is to be informed about and learn to evaluate the research done by others, both at Johns Hopkins and at leading institutions. The Mechanical Engineering Department hosts weekly seminars every Thursday during the Fall and Spring semesters. The Fluids and Mechanics and Materials groups also hold weekly student seminars on Fridays.

There are also a number of special seminars in the department and regular seminars in other departments, such as Materials Science and Engineering, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Biomedical Engineering; and Centers, such as CEA FM, CAMCS, HEMI, and CISST.

M.S.E. students are invited, although not required, to attend at least some of these seminars.

If students register for any of the seminar courses, all requirements must be met to earn the Pass grade for that seminar course.

Part of the graduate experience is to be informed and learn to evaluate the research done by others, both here at Johns Hopkins and at leading institutions worldwide.

#### EN.530.803 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE SEMINAR

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED only for 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ph.D. students. Registration is *optional* for master's students and for PhD students in their 4<sup>th</sup> year and beyond.**

**Registered students must attend 12 seminars, with at least 8 of them being Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminars, which occur Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.**

If a student has a scheduling conflict that interferes with his or her ability to attend a minimum of 8 official Mechanical Engineering graduate seminars, the student's advisor can approve attendance at alternate seminars, as long as the student attends 12 seminars in that semester.

**NOTE:** Students who enroll in informal student seminars or other seminars in addition to EN.530.803 Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminar cannot double-count attendance at the informal or other seminars and in EN.530.803. Each seminar's attendance requirements must be met with unique seminars. This is not a new requirement. It has always been understood but is now being stated specifically in case there is a question.

## 5.4. Ethics

Unethical behavior can lead to a student's expulsion from the program. Graduate students are therefore expected to be **aware** of what actions constitute unethical behavior. For example, students must submit work that represents their own efforts. Whenever ideas or results are drawn from other sources, those sources must be cited in the submitted or presented work. **Unless otherwise explicitly permitted by the instructor for that course, students must not collaborate or discuss any assignments prior to submission of the work.** Students must be aware of and adhere to the ethical issues associated with the use of, and in particular the duplication of computer software and must abide by the rules of use set by the developer.

## 6. Administration

### 6.1. Department Offices

The Mechanical Engineering Administrative Office is located in Latrobe 223. The office provides services and assistance to faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students. All purchasing, payroll, budget and accounting transactions, shipping, receiving, and other administrative services are handled through this office.

### 6.2. Supplies and Services

Most of the services you will need will be provided through the Department Office.

**COPIER and SCANNER** - Graduate students are welcome to use the department copier and scanner for tasks related to the conduct of research or the academic pursuits of the faculty. Informal training of use of the copier and its features is available. In unusual circumstances, the copier may be used on a limited basis for personal needs.

**FAX MACHINE** - The number for the fax machine in Latrobe 217 is 410-516-4316. Since many people rely on this machine, incoming faxes must be labeled or have a fax cover sheet. Students may use the outgoing fax for communication related to the conduct of research or the academic pursuits of the faculty.

This is how to dial a fax number for the following types of numbers:

- Local Number in the Baltimore area, with area codes 410, 443, or 667:  
*Dial 9, the area code and telephone number; e.g. 9-410-555-3818.*
- Long Distance numbers in Maryland (area codes 240, 301, some numbers in area codes 410, 443, and 667), the United States, Canada, and Caribbean locations using a three-digit Area Code: *Dial 9, 1, the area code and telephone number; e.g. 9-1-717-555-8203.*
- Elsewhere: *Dial 9, 011, the country code and telephone number; e.g. 9-011-39-555241156.*

**SHIPPING AND RECEIVING** - FedEx regularly delivers to the Department Office. FedEx picks up, on demand and delivers as required. Other carriers may be used in special circumstances.

An e-mail will be sent to you notifying you of any delivery that has arrived for you, which is stored in the receiving area in Latrobe 217. When picking up a package, sign and date the package log before taking your package. Outgoing shipments must be received in the Department Office before 2:00 p.m. As a convenience, personal items may be shipped and received through the Department Office, but the Department does not pay shipping fees for these. Please contact the administrative staff in Latrobe 223 with your questions.

**OFFICE EQUIPMENT** - Paper cutters, staplers, and other items are available for general use. **These items must be kept in Latrobe 217.**

**KITCHEN, including COFFEE and TEA SERVICE** - A refrigerator and microwave oven are available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Latrobe Hall to store and heat your meals. Please help keep the kitchen area clean.

### 6.3. Additional Services and Resources

The University offers a variety of services. These are among some that cater to graduate students:

- [Registrar](#)
- [Parking and Transportation Services](#)
- [Center for Social Concern](#) – service opportunities and advocate for social change
- [Campus Ministries](#) – for all faiths and those seeking spiritual growth
- [Counseling Center](#) – whenever we need a little extra help from our friends
- [The Hub](#) – the University’s official news publication
- [Johns Hopkins Magazine](#)

## 7. Safety and Security

### 7.1. Laboratory Safety

Lab Safety is the responsibility of all who use, maintain, or visit the labs within the Mechanical Engineering department. Laboratory researchers are responsible for working with the principal investigator to become familiar with the appropriate hazard information and safety policies before performing any work.

For each lab, a Principal Investigator (PI) is assigned. That person is responsible for the safe operation of the lab, training on all chemicals in the work area, the training of the persons on the equipment within the lab, and is a ready source to answer any questions on a specific lab concerning its operation and all safety aspects. The PI’s for each lab are listed on the entrance door to each lab.

#### 7.1.1. Intermediate Laboratory Safety – Training

The University offers research laboratory safety training, which is a requirement for all Mechanical Engineering graduate students. The training is offered in the following modes:

#### **REQUIRED for ALL STUDENTS - INTERMEDIATE LABORATORY SAFETY -**

A series of eight online learning modules, which all graduate students must take:

- Introduction in ethics, hazards, and risk evaluation
- Physical hazards
- Chemical hazards
- Biological
- Radiation
- Hazard analysis
- Design for safety
- Writing protocols and procedures

All new Mechanical Engineering graduate students should complete the online learning modules within the first two weeks and *must* complete these by the end of the first semester.

The online modules are currently available at My.JHU.edu -> My Learning. Search for “Intermediate Laboratory Safety,” as all eight modules are listed together. Once all eight courses are completed, an internal SIS “course” numbered EN.990.600 will be entered on students’ records, which will allow students to enroll in EN.500.601 (but EN.990.600 will not appear on a student's transcript nor on a student's course registration in SIS).

### **OPTIONAL - EN.500.601 RESEARCH LABORATORY SAFETY**

The course **EN.500.601 Research Laboratory Safety** is an optional additional course that students can take to learn even more about lab safety. Completion of the eight Laboratory Safety Assessment online learning modules is a prerequisite to take EN.500.601.

Advisors may encourage or even require Mechanical Engineering graduate students to take EN.500.601 Research Laboratory Safety. Please discuss this question with your advisor.

#### **7.1.2. Safety Resources**

The [JHU Department of Health, Safety and Environment](#) maintains a website to ensure updated information on policies, issues, and concerns are available to all. Their site contains directives concerning Safety Responsibilities and Policies, Environmental Monitoring, Fire Safety, Chemical Safety, Laboratory Safety, and Radiation Safety.

Also, visit the [Homewood Campus Laboratory Safety page](#) for important information.

## **7.2. Campus Security**

While the Hopkins Security Department provides ample and appropriate security to the campus, they remind us that we must play our part. Please exercise common sense when entering and leaving your office, classrooms, and labs.

- When you leave your office, if you are the only one there, **lock the doors** even if you leave only for a minute! Thefts take only a few seconds and valuable equipment and your work can disappear instantly.
- **Secure your computers**, especially laptops! Take your laptops with you when you leave your office.
- **Back up your work** onto separate disks or systems in case something happens to computer via virus, equipment problems, or theft.
- **Secure your laptop cases** or any bag that might be mistaken for a computer bag.
- **Lock your car** and do not leave any items inside your car in plain sight. Secure them in your trunk or bring them with you.
- **Secure your personal items** such as your purse, wallet, books, equipment, and your coat or jacket.

- **If you see someone suspicious** in your lab or office, do not confront the individual, contact Security at 410-516-7777 right away. Your personal safety is most important.
- **If you are uncomfortable** walking through campus or to your car at night or otherwise are concerned for your safety, the Security department provides escort services to selected locations. Call 410-516-8700 to arrange for an escort.

## 8. Email Etiquette

Email is an important tool where information can be communicated efficiently and succinctly. Here are some suggestions to ensure your email communication is professional, courteous, and efficient.

### SUBJECT LINE

- In the subject line, include the topic of the main message. If an event date and time is in the message, include those in the subject line.
- Make it clear whether the message requires response or is for information purpose.
- Don't leave the subject line blank.
- Provide a brief 5–10-word subject description in the subject line, where possible.
- Do not forward a previously sent e-mail and subject line to ask a new question completely unrelated to the previous e-mail content. Start a new e-mail instead.

### MESSAGE BODY

- In the salutation, show your courtesy.
  - Address someone by name – either “Dear Mr. Smith” or “Good Morning, Prof. Jones” to those in authority or considered higher rank. A salutation like, “Hi Mary,” is acceptable if the recipient is a peer, if the person is okay with being addressed by first name, or is a familiar person with whom a working relationship is established.
  - Do not address someone by their full name: “Dear Lauren Rodgers” – while that is culturally acceptable in some areas of the world, it is typically not acceptable in American culture.
- In the first sentence or two, provide the most important and relevant parts of the entire message. Most people skim quickly through their messages. You want the most important part to be the first thing they read.
- Keep your emails as short as possible. If the e-mail is of medium length, create headers for each main paragraph. If the e-mail is long, provide a bullet-point summary at the beginning of the message and invite readers to read the details that follow.
- If you seek a response, try to make the reader's job as easy as possible by asking specific questions that can be answered by short messages, even “yes” and “no,” where possible.
- You can include an e-mail “trail” for information/documentation purposes but don't expect the reader to read through every attached message. A summary of the e-mail trail on the top of your message is best.

## 9. Facilities

### 9.1. Libraries

The [Milton S. Eisenhower Library](#) offers a variety of online, research, and book lending services.

We have a dedicated librarian who will help students with finding research information, library services, and other resources. The librarian also advocates and budgets for subscribed online resources. Mr. Stephen Stich is the librarian for the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He welcomes your inquiries at [sstich@jhu.edu](mailto:sstich@jhu.edu).

The Library also purchases books and journals based on departmental requests. Student requests for books and journals should be discussed with their advisor who may communicate the request to the faculty member designated as the Library Liaison, currently Professor Jaafar El-Awady, who is located at Latrobe 124, and can be contacted at [jelawady@jhu.edu](mailto:jelawady@jhu.edu) or 410-516-6683.

### 9.2. WSE Manufacturing

The WSE Manufacturing student machine shop is located in the basement of the Wyman Park Building, and is open to students, faculty, and staff across the Johns Hopkins University. An orientation regarding shop safety, shop rules, and equipment operations is required to be allowed to work in the student machine shop.

To learn more about the WSE Manufacturing equipment and services available to students, please visit [their website](#).

### 9.3. Computing

There are a cornucopia of computing facilities and services available to the Johns Hopkins community. The [Information Technology website](#) offers an overview of the IT Organization, its projects and services, support for applications and general questions, and news about emerging technologies and strategic imperatives, as well as e-mail, web, and file sharing services.

#### 9.3.1. JHU Information Technology

Information Technology at Johns Hopkins is the online resource for IT-related information. Their primary focus is to support the missions of the Johns Hopkins Institutions and provide technology solutions for faculty, staff, patients, and students in support of teaching, research, and patient care.

This Web site serves as a repository for all IT-related information at Johns Hopkins. You will find a lot of useful information within this site, including an overview of the IT Organization, its projects and services, support for applications and general questions, and news about emerging technologies and strategic imperatives.

### 9.3.2. WSE Information Technology

WSE IT is tasked with supporting the IT needs of the Whiting School of Engineering community. They are a component of the WSE Dean's office, and not a branch of IT@JH. Please visit [their website](#) to learn how WSE IT can serve you.

### 9.3.3. Software Downloads

The university owns licenses of many [software packages](#), many of which may be downloaded from the WSE IT website.

## 10. Student Disability Services

The [Office of Student Disability Services \(SDS\)](#) assists full-time undergraduate and graduate students in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering with disability concerns, in compliance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. SDS assists the University community in understanding the effects of disabilities and in eliminating the physical, technical, attitudinal and programmatic barriers that limit the range of opportunities for students with disabilities, as well as provides individuals with reasonable accommodations. The SDS maintains and protects the confidentiality of individual records as required by law.

### 10.1. Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association (MEGA)

[MEGA](#) is a social and advocacy organization for the graduate students of Mechanical Engineering. As a graduate student, you will be invited to various events throughout the year.

### 10.2. University and Departmental Graduate Student Representation

Each year the graduate students elect a full-time Ph.D. student to serve as a departmental representative to the University's [Graduate Representative Organization](#). The GRO is an advocacy group for all graduate students. They serve the student body as a liaison to the University's schools, administration, and dean's offices as well as hosts social activities and provides extensive information about life on campus and in and around Baltimore.

Each department sends a graduate student representative to serve in the GRO, and an announcement is made each year as to who will represent the department. You are welcome to forward to the representative your questions and concerns, which will be presented at GRO meetings.

## 10.3. Extracurricular Activities

As a department, Mechanical Engineering participates in University intramural athletics. Mechanical Engineering fields strong teams in softball, and periodically participates in basketball, volleyball, and other sports.

Periodically, students, staff, and faculty will host social events off-campus. You will be invited to these events as the department hears of them. If you want to host a social event, notify academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu), who will announce it to the Mechanical Engineering community and assist with arrangements.

Many groups and organizations throughout the University provide ample opportunities for social times and fun. Check out these websites for information:

### 10.3.1. Johns Hopkins University

- [Campus Life](#)
- [Arts and Culture](#)
- [Recreation Center](#) – full-time grad students have free membership.
- [Hopkins Athletics](#)

### 10.3.2. In the Baltimore Area

- [Baltimore Collegetown](#) – things to do and resources for college students
- [Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association](#)
- [Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts](#)

## 11. Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy

The Johns Hopkins University admits students of any race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, handicap or veteran status to all of the rights, privileges, programs, benefits and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, handicap or veteran status in any program or activity, including the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other University-administered programs. Accordingly, the University does not take into consideration personal factors that are irrelevant to the program involved.

Questions regarding access to programs following Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 should be referred to the Affirmative Action Officer, 205 Garland Hall, 410-516-8075.

## 12. Appendices

Please see the next page for appendices.



Department of Mechanical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University  
**Graduate Student Evaluation Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1 - to the student:** This form is intended to summarize your accomplishments in the past year and indicate your plans for the coming year. Please complete, sign, and discuss this with your advisor. Your advisor will also sign it and see to it that it is placed in your student file. Continue on as many sheets as necessary.

Responsible Conduct of Research course completed?  No  Yes (When? \_\_\_\_\_)

- COURSES COMPLETED IN THE PAST 2 SEMESTERS:
  
- PLANNED COURSES FOR THE NEXT 2 SEMESTERS:
  
- TEACHING ASSISTANT REQUIREMENTS:
  
- PAPERS SUBMITTED OR PUBLISHED:
  
- CONFERENCE AND INTERNAL/INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS:
  
- MAJOR RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
  
- RESEARCH, ACADEMIC, AND OTHER GOALS IN THE COMING YEAR (advisor must agree):
  
- YOUR COMMENTS:
  
- ADVISOR'S COMMENTS:

I have reviewed this document with my advisor and I have seen his/her comments

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Part 2 - to the advisor:** This form is intended to guide a discussion with your student about their accomplishments, progress, and areas for improvement. This discussion is an opportunity to evaluate the student/advisor relationship and create a more effective research partnership. Below are several topics that should be covered in the discussion. Please think about these issues before meeting with the student. Space is provided for notes. **Both you and the student will sign this form.**

- Research** (discuss as applicable: thesis topic, future publications, ability to conduct quality research, ability to think of and discuss new ideas, overall progress)

**Comments:**

- Professionalism** (discuss as applicable: conduct, presentation skills, writing skills, communication skills, teamwork)

**Comments:**

- Logistics** (discuss as applicable: graduation timeframe, future state of student funding, specific grant requirements, present funding, progress towards students post-graduate goals)

**Comments:**

- Educational Progress** (discuss as applicable: academic progress, progress towards DQE or GBO, teaching opportunities, TA opportunities)

**Comments:**

- Career Goals** (discuss as applicable: plans after graduation, including exploration of academic and non-academic opportunities and networking events)

**Comments:**

- Other** (discuss as applicable) – Unaddressed student or advisor concerns
  - Importance of research with respect to greater research community
  - Students impressions of their progress
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Certificate of Degree Completion

### Master of Science in Engineering - Department of Mechanical Engineering



Name				
Hopkins ID#				
Faculty Advisor				
I am a...	<input type="checkbox"/> Master's student	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD student earning an MSE		
Semester of Graduation				
Last Semester Registered				
<b>Required Introductory Courses</b>	EN.500.603 Academic Ethics	Title IX Anti- Harassment	Opioid Epidemic Awareness	Responsible Conduct of Research
Semester Completed				

### SECTION A: Six courses, each 3-credits or more

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Grade	Credits	Double Counted from JHU BS?	Is the Course Transferred from Another Institution?	Math Course?

### Two to four courses, 6 credits total - can include up to 6 credits of EN.660.xxx, EN.661.xxx, EN.662.xxx, and EN.663.xxx Center for Leadership Education courses (1.5-3 credits)

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Grade	Credits	Double Counted from JHU BS?	Is the Course Transferred from Another Institution?	Math Course?

- Please see the **Master's Advising Manual** for all requirements, not all may be listed here.
- At least 12 credits must be at the graduate level** (xxx.600 or higher).
- No more than two courses from undergraduate programs can double-count** for the master's degree.
- No more than four courses may be at the advanced undergraduate level** (xx.xxx.400 – xx.xxx.499).
- At least two courses should be in applied mathematics, numerical analysis, or computational methods ("Math Course?" above).** This requirement can be waived in writing by your advisor, if sufficient prior preparation in these areas can be demonstrated.
- At least 4 courses if taking an "all-course" option, or at least 3 if writing an essay - must be Mechanical Engineering: either - all **EN.530.xxx Mechanical Engineering** or **EN.535.xxx Engineering for Professionals' Mechanical Engineering** or other approved courses noted in Section 3.2 of the Master's Advising Manual.
- Ineligible Courses:** AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation, AS.370.603 Public Speaking in Academia, EN.530.800 Independent Study, EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research, EN.530.822 MSE Essay – Co-Op, EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research, and all other departments' Graduate Research, Independent Study, and Special Studies are not eligible courses to complete Section A's requirement. See Section B to see how Graduate Research could be counted.
- EN.xx5.6xx or EN.xx5.7xx – [Engineering for Professionals \(EP\) program](#). – no more than two "EP" courses count.
- A course is satisfactorily completed if a grade from A+ to B- is obtained.** Grades of C+ or lower are evidence of unsatisfactory academic performance. If necessary, one course with a C+, C, or C- final grade can be counted toward the degree. "Pass" or "P" grades are not accepted.

**SECTION B: Complete either the “Course Option” or the “Essay Option” but not both.**

**Course Option**

Two additional one-semester courses, at least 6 total credits, approved by the faculty advisor.

- Two additional one-semester graduate-level courses (xx.xxx.6xx or higher).
- EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research\*
  - **BS/MSE and MSE students only:** one of these two courses can be EN.530.823. Students must also have completed the appropriate Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Laboratory Safety courses.
  - **PhD students** earning the MSE degree cannot count EN.530.823.
- **Ineligible Courses:** EN.530.800 Independent Study, EN.530.822 Master’s Essay – Co-Op, all other departments’ Graduate Research, Independent Study, and Special Studies are not eligible courses to complete Section B’s requirement.

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Grade	Credits	Double Counted from JHU BS?	Is the Course Transferred from Another Institution?	Math Course?

\* If counting EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research, complete this section.

Requirement	Date or Semester Completed / Training Description
AS.360.624 (online) or AS.360.625 (in-person, for NIH funded) <a href="#">Responsible Conduct of Research</a> . Proof must be provided with this form through SIS or copy of online certificate.	
<b>Intermediate Laboratory Safety</b> – date completed and briefly describe training done.	

**Essay – Research or Essay – Co-Op**

Write an essay acceptable to the faculty advisor and one other reader, plus these requirements.

Requirement	Date or Semester Completed / Training Description
AS.360.624 (online) or AS.360.625 (in-person, for NIH funded) <a href="#">Responsible Conduct of Research</a> . Proof must be provided with this form through SIS Registration or copy of online certificate.	
<b>Research Laboratory Safety</b> – date completed and briefly describe training done.	
<b>EN.530.822 Master’s Essay - Co-Op</b> or <b>EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research</b> Six credits (one 6-credit or two 3-credit courses). List the semester(s) and number of credits for each course(s) completed.	

Essay Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVISOR’S CERTIFICATION**

After reviewing the degree requirements, I am satisfied that this student has completed all of the requirements for the Master of Science in Engineering Degree in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date