



JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY

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Department of  
Mechanical  
Engineering

Ph.D.  
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 graduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering to work more effectively during the conduct of their research and to describe the basic academic requirements for both the MSE and Ph.D. degrees. 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:

- Your faculty advisor
- Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Tamer Zaki - [t.zaki@jhu.edu](mailto:t.zaki@jhu.edu)
- 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)
- Administrator - Ada Simari - [asimari@jhu.edu](mailto:asimari@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

Graduate study is a joint enterprise involving faculty, fellow students, and instructors from other disciplines. Advanced degrees require advanced training through both coursework and individual faculty guidance as well as through innovative fundamental research. The results of this research should be disseminated through conference presentations, archival journals, and other appropriate publications. Our goal is to provide an environment that fosters a stimulating, rewarding, productive, and enjoyable intellectual enterprise.

### 2.1. Residency Requirements

Once students begin their graduate course of study toward a degree, they must complete a minimum of two consecutive 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. Information is available at the [Graduate Board 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.
- **All Ph.D. students whose TOEFL speaking scores are 25/30 or lower** must register for AS.370.602 American English Pronunciation and later strongly encouraged 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 three introductory courses and tutorials that most or all graduate students must take.

### 2.3.1. Responsible Conduct of Research

All M.S.E. and all Ph.D. graduate students will be required to take the [“Responsible Conduct of Research” course](#).

Each Ph.D. student must complete the in-person training course (AS.360.625) by the end of his or her first year of the program. It is possible to take the course after the first year, but it is recommended to complete it by then, when possible. Failure to complete the course could result in the loss of funding.

### 2.3.2. Graduate Orientation and Academic Ethics

Graduate students are automatically enrolled in the online tutorial EN.500.603 Graduate Orientation and Academic Ethics, which teaches academic and ethical responsibilities. This online tutorial must 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, which will be added to your course registration in SIS. Do not drop the course when you see it.

### **2.3.3. Intermediate Laboratory Safety**

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 Section 16.1.1 of this manual for details on the modules and lectures.**

These should be taken before beginning work in a research laboratory.

### **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. Advisors**

In most cases, a graduate student’s academic advisor will be a full-time faculty member 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 has a secondary appointment in Mechanical Engineering.
  - Before April 2026, a research advisor may or may not have a secondary appointment in Mechanical Engineering.
  - As of April 2026, a secondary appointment is required for research advisors. If the research advisor does not have a secondary appointment in Mechanical Engineering, one will be arranged when he or she becomes a research advisor for a Mechanical Engineering student.
- 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. Tamer Zaki, Director of Ph.D. Studies – [t.zaki@jhu.edu](mailto:t.zaki@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).

Prof. Zaki will first try to help you resolve your concern. If he is unable to resolve it, Ms. Rodgers will assist, as will the Associate Vice Dean if we cannot resolve your concern within the department.

## 2.5. Course Registration and Credits

### 2.5.1. Credits and Full-Time Status

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 (EN.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. Students enrolled in fewer than 9 credits per semester will not meet the full-time enrollment requirement, which may affect residency requirements for all and visa concerns for international students.
- **PhD students must enroll in in at least 20 credits per semester.** Students can meet this enrollment requirement by registering for any combination of courses and seminars, as approved by one's advisor.
  - Seminars – 1 credit

- WSE courses, both undergraduate and graduate – 3 or 4 credits
- EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research – 3-20 credits
- NOTE:
  - Audited courses do not count toward a full-time credit load. No academic credit will be given but tuition will be charged per-credit if an audited course is taken outside the Spring or Fall semesters and when a student is part-time during any semester.
  - 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.
  - The maximum per-semester Ph.D. student enrollment limit is 25 credits. If there is a need to register for more than 25 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 Academic Credits page](#) for more information.

If a student wishes to drop a course during the Add/Drop period or subsequent Drop period, the total number of required credits may drop below the required 20 credits. If this occurs, additional credits must be added to EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research to maintain the 20-credit requirement.

After a student registers for a research course, the selected number of credits cannot be changed directly in SIS, but it can be changed by submitting a request on the [Student Enrollment and Account management system](#) > Records and Registration > "Other records and registration topic" button, then scroll to the Request Support button. Explain that to maintain the 20-credit minimum you would like to change the number of credits for EN.530.801 Graduate Research.

### 2.5.2. EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer – annual enrollment required

The course EN.530.897 Graduate Research – Summer is used as a non-graded, non-academic credit, no-assignment 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 Ph.D. students must enroll for this tuition-free course for nine credits each summer in their advisor's 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 Ph.D. student who does not enroll for this course.

### 2.5.3. 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.

### 2.5.4. 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 in person at the Registrar's office in Garland Hall. Visit the [Interdivisional Registration page](#) for information.

### 2.6. Frequency of Course Offerings

Graduate courses are offered in specific semesters, and sometimes in alternating years. Below is a timeframe of elective course offerings listed in the anticipated order of next offering.

These offerings are subject to change due to instructor sabbaticals or unusual situations. Please confirm these offerings when planning your course schedule.

*(See the next page...)*

**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. Ph.D. Degree Program

The Ph.D. degree certifies that the holder has demonstrated the ability to conduct independent research and develop new knowledge.

#### Suggested Courses

Although there are no formal course requirements, students are presumed to be prepared by studies equal to six .600-level courses in their field of specialization and six courses in related fields. All students are required to follow a course of study approved by their advisor.

#### Teaching Assistants

All candidates for the doctorate must complete two semesters as a teaching assistant as part of their training.

#### Examinations

As soon as the student is prepared to do so, he/she should fulfill the requirements for candidacy. In addition to general university requirements, the student must successfully pass the following:

- The first examination is an oral Departmental Qualifying Exam based on core courses. This exam is usually taken after the second semester.
- The second examination is a Graduate Board Oral examination satisfying the Graduate Board requirements. This is a comprehensive examination in which students must demonstrate proficiency at the graduate level in their field of specialization.
  - Section 5 of this manual describes the new process that requires a Dissertation Proposal before the Graduate Board Oral examination.
  - Section 6 of this manual describes the legacy process of the role of the Graduate Board Oral examination.
- The final and principal requirement for the doctorate is a piece of original research worthy of publication. Candidates must write a dissertation describing their work in detail and successfully defend it in a final oral presentation and examination.

#### 3.1. Degree Requirements

The requirements for a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering are as follows:

Fulfill the University-wide requirements by:

- a) Completing a minimum of two consecutive semesters as a full-time resident graduate student,
- b) Passing the Graduate Board Oral examination (GBO), and...
- c) Submitting and defending a dissertation approved by at least three referees appointed by the Mechanical Engineering Department faculty.

*In addition* to the University-wide requirements, students must:

- a) Pass the Departmental Qualifying Examination (DQE) before the start of the fifth semester as a doctoral candidate. This examination is preliminary to the GBO and its primary purpose is to evaluate the candidate's suitability for continuing study.
- b) Act as Teaching Assistant to at least two Mechanical Engineering courses.
- c) For each semester that a student maintains full-time status (that is, not change to non-resident status), each student must register for and pass EN.530.801 Graduate Research.
- d) For the first three years that a student maintains full-time status, each student must register for and pass EN.530.803 Mechanical Engineering Seminar by attending the required number of presentations.
- e) Earn an appropriate grade for all classes taken (see Section 3.1.1).

### **3.1.1. "Pass" Grade Not Accepted**

Pass grades are not accepted for courses counting toward the Ph.D. degree.

Deviations to this policy must be explicitly authorized in writing by the Mechanical Engineering student advisor before the official last day for dropping courses established by the Registrar's Office.

### **3.1.2. COVID-19 Policy for Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021**

Typically, all courses for the master's degree must be letter graded. The COVID-19 pandemic has required some exceptions.

#### **For courses taken Spring 2020**

- Any upper-undergraduate course (xx.xxx.4xx) or graduate course (xx.xxx.6xx) taken as an undergraduate student that qualifies for the master's degree could count, as long as it has an S\* grade.
- Any graduate courses taken as a graduate student that are intended to count towards a student's degree can still be counted if the grading method has been changed to P/F. 'F' grades cannot count towards a degree requirement.

#### **For courses taken in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021**

- Any upper-undergraduate course (xx.xxx.4xx) or graduate course (xx.xxx.6xx) taken as an undergraduate student that qualifies for the degree could count, as long as it has an S\*\* grade or a grade of B- or higher.
- One Fall 2020 graduate course (xx.xxx.6xx) and one Spring 2021 graduate course (xx.xxx.6xx) taken as a graduate student can be graded P (Pass).
  - All other courses but one must have a letter grade of B- or higher. The department will accept up to one course for the master's degree with a C- or higher.
  - The decision to change a course grade system to Pass/Fail must be made and requested to the course instructor before the beginning of the final exam of the course.

## 3.2. Academic Performance Requirements

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

A student earning one C+, C, or C- grade will receive notification, with a copy to his or her advisor, of academic probation and an explanation that a second C+, C, or C- or the student's first D or F grade will typically 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.

A student receiving a termination notification can appeal to the Director of Graduate Studies by the official date by which "Incomplete" grades must be resolved for that semester, as established by the Registrar's Office. The Department Head, who may consult with the student and the student's advisor, is required to formulate a final written decision within two weeks after that date.

*Please see the next page...*

### 3.3. 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 Affairs - [christinekavanagh@jhu.edu](mailto:christinekavanagh@jhu.edu).
  - Dr. Annalisa Peterson, Ombuds - <https://ombuds.jhu.edu/>

### 3.4. Ph.D. Degree Timeline

Students can generally expect the degree experience to unfold in these timeframes:

#### Year 1

- Discuss program plan with the advisor to determine academic courses, research topics, and research plan
- Take required introductory courses: Academic Ethics, Research Laboratory Safety course modules, Effort Report - Certifier, Title IX & Harassment Prevention, and Opioid Epidemic Awareness
- Take academic courses.
- Enroll in 20-25 credits between academic courses, seminars, and EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research
- Take required Graduate Research and MechE Graduate Seminar courses
- Begin preliminary research work as determined by your advisor
- Work with advisor to create annual evaluation
- Prepare for Departmental Qualifier Exam

*Please see the next page...*

## Year 2

- Take academic courses
- Enroll in 20-25 credits between academic courses, seminars, and EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research
- Take required course: AS.360.625 Responsible Conduct of Research
- Take required Graduate Research and MechE Graduate Seminar courses
- Act as a Teaching Assistant for one of two required courses
- Take Departmental Qualifier Exam, usually in mid-September
- Continue research work, start discussion on dissertation topic
- Work with advisor to create annual evaluation.

## Year 3

- Take academic courses, as needed
- Enroll in 20-25 credits between academic courses, seminars, and EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research
- Take required Graduate Research and MechE Graduate Seminar courses
- Continue research work, continue discussion and decide on dissertation topic
- Act as a Teaching Assistant for the second of two required courses
- GBO Exam / Doctoral Dissertation Proposal
  - **If following the new GBO process**, prepare for and present the Doctoral Dissertation Proposal
  - **If following the legacy GBO process**, prepare for and take the preliminary Graduate Board Oral exam
- Work with advisor to create annual evaluation

## Year 4

- Enroll in 20-25 credits between academic courses, seminars, and EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research
- Take required Graduate Research courses
- Take MechE Graduate Seminar course(s) if required to complete six semesters if this was missed or skipped in previous years.
- Work with advisor to create annual evaluation
- Continue research work and hone dissertation topic. Perhaps begin writing it.

## Year 5

- Enroll in 20-25 credits between academic courses, seminars, and EN.530.801 PhD Graduate Research
- Take required Graduate Research courses
- Take MechE Graduate Seminar course(s) if required to complete six semesters if this was missed or skipped in previous years.
- Work with advisor to create annual evaluation
- Write dissertation
- Dissertation Defense / GBO Exam

- **If following the new GBO process**, prepare for and complete and final Graduate Board Oral exam and Dissertation Defense.
- **If following the legacy GBO process**, ensure an unconditional pass has been earned for the preliminary Graduate Board Oral exam, then prepare for and complete the Dissertation Defense.
- Prepare completed dissertation for submission to the JHU Library for publication
- Graduate!

Individual experiences may vary.

### 3.5. Departmental Qualifying Examination

The completion of a doctoral degree at a major research university requires a high level of academic sophistication in the candidate's field, as well as the ability to apply this advanced background in the creation of new knowledge. The Departmental Qualifying Examination (DQE) is an approximately one-hour oral examination in which students are tested in their principal research areas: fluid mechanics, mechanics and materials, bio-mechanical engineering, or robotics, and also in applied mathematics.

The examination is given after two semesters, usually in early- to mid-September or by special arrangement with the Director of Ph.D. Studies.

#### DQE Result Possibilities

The possible outcomes of the DQE are...

- **Pass** – no additional action is necessary
- **Conditional Pass** – with either of these possibilities:
  - Condition(s) – which are to be met by a specified date
  - Partial Retake
- **Failure** - Full Retake

One retake is allowed for failures and conditional passes requiring partial retakes that were earned in the first examination attempt. The retake will be required by a date specified by the department.

The retake must be passed to earn a Pass. If the retake is unsuccessful, the student receives a Failure, which will be considered final and is grounds for dismissal from the Ph.D. program.

*Please see the next page...*

## Students with Disabilities - Accommodations and Accessibility

Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing welcoming, equitable, and accessible educational experiences for all students. Students with disabilities (including those with psychological conditions, medical conditions and temporary disabilities) can request accommodations for this exam by providing an Accommodation Letter issued by Student Disability Services (SDS). Please request accommodations for this exam as early as possible to provide time for effective communication and arrangements.

For further information or to start the process of requesting accommodations, please contact [Student Disability Services at the Whiting School of Engineering](#), or contact SDS at 410-516-4720 or [studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu).

## Responsible Conduct of Research

Each Ph.D. student must complete the in-person training course (AS.360.625) of Responsible Conduct of Research before the start of his or her fourth semester of the program. See Section 2.3.1 of this manual for more information.

### 3.5.1. Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer

All students in Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer are tested in Math and Graduate Level Fluid Mechanics. The third subject area for most students in this track is Convection, but it may be replaced by another subject area per the recommendation of your Advisor.

#### MATHEMATICS

Based on **EN 530.761 Mathematical Methods in Engineering**, the following topics are covered:

##### Linear Algebra

- Systems of linear equations and their solution
- Linear Independence, Rank of Matrix
- Vector (Linear) Spaces
- Matrix Eigenvalue Problems (Real and Complex Matrices)
- Special Matrices
- Eigenbases, Diagonalization and Quadratic Forms

##### Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)

- First Order Exact ODEs
- Linear ODEs (Homogeneous and Nonhomogeneous)
- Solving Systems of ODEs

## Kernel Transforms

- Laplace Transforms (including solving ODEs, and integral equations)
- Fourier Series and Transforms (including half range expansions)
- Generalized Fourier Series (e.g. Sturm-Liouville problems)

## PDEs

- Separation of Variables
- d'Alembert's Solution of the Wave Equation
- Method of Characteristics
- Solution by Transform (Laplace and Fourier transforms)

## FLUIDS

The topics for this subject area of the exam are covered in the courses shown below with these specific topics:

### EN 530.621 Fluid Dynamics I

- The Continuum Model of Fluids
- Lagrangian and Eulerian Descriptions
- Mass Conservation
- The Euler Equations
- Potential Flow
- Local Kinematics
- Navier-Stokes Equations
- Some Incompressible Flow
- Integral Momentum Balance
- Kinetic Energy Balance
- Scaling and Dimensional Analysis
- Vorticity and Vorticity Transport Equation
- Boundary Layer Theory
- Shear Flows
- Creeping Flows
- Quasi-Parallel Flows and Lubrication Approximation

### EN 530.622 Fluid Dynamics II

- Potential Flow (Conformal mapping, unsteady potential flow, bubbles, virtual mass)
- Classical Aerodynamics (Thin airfoil theory and finite wings)
- Interfacial Phenomena, Free Surface Waves
- Instabilities
- Compressible Flow
- Fundamentals of Acoustics

*Please see the next page...*

## NUMERICAL METHODS

The topics for this subject area of the exam are covered EN 530.766 Numerical Methods. The specific topics for the DQE are:

- Finite-Difference (FD) Operators
- Truncation Error, Consistency, Convergence if FD Approximations
- Numerical Stability Analysis (Von-Neumann & Matrix)
- Discrete Conservation
- Boundary Conditions
- FD Methods for Parabolic, Elliptic and Hyperbolic PDEs
- Explicit and Implicit Time Advancement Schemes
- Direct and Iterative Solution Methods for Sparse Systems
- Numerical Dissipation, Dispersion and Modified Wavenumber

## CONVECTION

The topics for this subject area are covered in EN.530.632 Convection. The specific topics for the DQE are:

- Governing Equations
- Conservation Laws in Integral and Differential Forms, and Boundary Conditions
- Dimensional Analysis and Scaling Laws
- Scalar Transport in Boundary Layers and Free Shear Flows
- Laminar Duct Flow and Heat Transfer
- Basics of Mass Diffusion, Natural Convection & Turbulent Transport

### 3.5.2. Mechanics and Materials

In mathematics, students are required to have taken, or have the knowledge equivalent to EN.530.761 Math Methods for Engineers.

Students in this area typically follow either a mechanics-intensive track or a materials-intensive track.

Mechanics-intensive Track: Students are presumed to be prepared on completion of courses EN.530.605 Mechanics of Solids and Materials, and appropriate undergraduate courses in statics, dynamics, mechanics of materials, and vibrations. Depending on their research focus, students will also be examined on EN.560.730 Finite Element Methods, EN.530.712 Computational Solid Mechanics, or EN.510.604 Mechanical Properties of Materials.

Materials-intensive Track: Students are presumed to be prepared on completion of courses EN.530.605 Mechanics of Solids and Materials, EN.510.601 Structure of Materials, EN.510.602 Thermodynamics and Kinetics of Materials, EN.510.604 Mechanical Properties of Materials, and appropriate undergraduate courses in statics, materials selection, and mechanics of materials.

Variations from these courses might occur, depending on a student's research focus. The student's faculty advisor will determine specific courses tailored to the student.

### 3.5.3. Robotics

Students are presumed to be prepared on completion of either EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control or EN.530.616 (equivalent to EN.580.616/EN.520.601) Introduction to Linear Dynamical Systems, and at least three of the following courses as approved by the student's advisor:

*Graduate Courses (at least 2 from this list)*

- EN.530.603 Applied Optimal Control
- EN.530.616/EN.580.616/EN.520.601 Introduction to Linear Dynamical Systems
- EN.530.624 Dynamics of Robots and Spacecraft
- EN.530.626 Optimal Control for Space Systems
- EN.530.641 Statistical Learning for Engineers
- EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control
- EN.530.649 System Identification
- EN.530.663 Robot Motion Planning
- EN.530.666 Magnetically Actuated and MRI Compatible Robots
- EN.530.668 Locomotion Mechanics: Fundamentals
- EN.530.669 Locomotion Mechanics: Recent Advances
- EN.530.676 Locomotion Dynamics and Control
- EN.530.678 Nonlinear Control and Planning in Robotics
- EN.530.691 Haptic Interface Design for Human-Robot Interaction
- EN.530.692 Flexible Robotic System Modeling
- EN.530.696 Learning-Based Control for Robotics
- EN.530.707 Robot Systems Programming
- EN.530.721 Medical Robotics Systems Design
- EN.530.761 Math Methods for Engineers

*Upper-level Undergraduate Courses (at most 1)*

- EN.530.420 Robot Sensors/ Actuators
- EN.530.421 Mechatronics
- EN.530.470 Space Vehicle Dynamics and Control
- EN.530.485 Physics and Feedback in Living Systems

*Graduate Courses Outside Mechanical Engineering (at most 1)*

- EN.520.621 Introduction to Nonlinear Systems
- EN.520.629 Networked Dynamical Systems
- EN.601.663 Algorithms for Sensor-Based Robotics
- EN.601.661 Computer Vision

**Note:** it is strongly recommended that students take EN.530.646 Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control and EN.601.663 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.

Students should have proficiency in calculus, linear algebra, differential equations, linear systems, physics, statics, dynamical systems, vibrations, and strength of materials as appropriate for the conduct of their research.

In mathematics, students are required to use ordinary differential equations, linear algebra, and multidimensional calculus, as well as to perform frequency domain analysis. It is assumed that incoming students have knowledge equivalent to at least that of undergraduate third-year courses and will have taken two graduate-level mathematically intensive courses as agreed by the student's advisor.

Each student should select a course of study consistent with their research and approved by their advisor.

#### **3.5.4. Biomechanical Engineering**

Students in the biomechanical engineering area should demonstrate good knowledge in the areas of engineering mathematics, numerical/computational methods, mechanics and biological sciences.

To fulfill these requirements, the student must successfully complete the mathematics requirement and selected Biomechanical Engineering courses in consultation with your faculty advisor.

- 1) *Mathematics* - EN.530.761 Math Methods for Engineers
- 2) *Biomechanical Engineering*
  - EN.520.495 Microfabrication Laboratory
  - EN.530.410 Biomechanics of the Cell and Organisms
  - EN.520.429 Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
  - EN.530.431 Introduction to Mechanobiology
  - EN.530.441 Introduction to Biophotonics
  - EN.530.443 or EN.530.643 Fundamentals, Principles, and Application of Microfluidic Systems
  - EN.530.445 Introduction to Biomechanics
  - EN.530.474 Effective and Economic Design for Biomedical Instrumentation
  - EN.530.480 Image Processing and Data Visualization
  - EN.530.493 Fabrication of Biomaterials, Engineered Tissues, and Food

- EN.530.605 Mechanics and Solids and Materials
- EN.530.621 Fluid Dynamics I
- EN.530.672 BioMEMS and Biosensing

This is not an exhaustive list. Other courses offered at the Homewood Campus, the Medical School, and the School of Public Health may be approved by your advisor.

NOTE: Some of these courses have prerequisites or require the permission of the instructor to take the course. Please consult the University's *Undergraduate and Graduate Programs* course catalog for further information.

### Examination Best Practices and Resources

In 2020-2021, the Mechanical Engineering department conducted Departmental Qualifier Examinations and Graduate Board Oral examinations online via Zoom and other platforms. Students and examiners have learned best practices by trial and error.

The department has iPads with styluses for students to use during examinations. An iPad is available to borrow for up to two weeks to practice before the exam. Please contact Laboratory Manager Patrick Caulfield at [pdcaulfield@jhu.edu](mailto:pdcaulfield@jhu.edu) to reserve one.

These suggested guidelines will help remote and online examinations proceed smoothly.

- Students should have available some way to write equations on a white-board shared over Zoom. This may be...
  - A tablet or tablet PC with a good stylus - this is the preferred solution, and most students choose this approach. The iPad with Apple Pencil is excellent.
  - A pad of paper with a document camera.
  - A regular physical whiteboard with a high-resolution camera
  - A Wacom-style stylus tablet attached to your PC, using a white-board application or the Zoom white board. If you use a Wacom-style tablet, you need to practice using it in advance because your pen is on the Wacom-tablet on your desk, but your writing does not appear on the Wacom-tablet, it appears on your computer screen. It takes some getting used to doing.
- Do not try to use a computer mouse to write equations, it does not work well.
- When using a tablet and stylus, many students find it convenient to connect to Zoom twice:
  - Once with their PC for audio and video connection.
  - Once with their tablet and stylus, with no audio and no video, to share the whiteboard.
- To use Zoom's built-in white-board, during the Zoom session choose "Share Screen" then "White Board".

- **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:** Many days in advance of your DQE/GBO practice using your tablet and/or computer whiteboard in advance with somebody (a friend, a lab-mate, etc., someone who has already done a DQE or GBO) playing the role of an examiner. They should ask you questions, and you should give full responses using your words, equations, drawings, etc. Do this over Zoom using EXACTLY the same computer equipment, internet connection, room, and room lighting that you plan to use for your actual exam.
- Do one or more practice DQE/GBOs with your friends or lab-mates who have previously completed their exams.

## 4. GBO Exam and Dissertation Defense

### 4.1. Changes in Examination Timing

In November 2022, the department faculty voted to change the structure and timing of Ph.D. examinations, as well as introduce a new dissertation proposal process. These changes are intended to improve the Ph.D. experience and outcomes for the students.

The new process will apply to all students who begin their Ph.D. studies in Spring 2023 and later. Students who began their Ph.D. prior to Spring 2023 are encouraged to adopt the new format, but can elect to follow the procedures from their year of admission.

#### Students beginning Ph.D. study in Spring 2023 and later:

Students will follow the “Final-GBO timeline,” which is described in Section 5 – “*Combined Final GBO / Dissertation Defense – New Process.*” This is the approximate timeline for those beginning Ph.D. study in Spring 2023 and later:

- **Department Qualifier Examination** – about one year after beginning Ph.D. study
- **Doctoral Dissertation Proposal** – by the end of the third year of Ph.D. study.
- **Final Graduate Board Oral Examination and Dissertation Defense** – to be conducted simultaneously - usually after five years after beginning Ph.D. study.

The above timeline will be hereafter be referred to as the “Final-GBO timeline.”

*Please see the next page...*

### Students beginning Ph.D. study from Spring 2021 and through Fall 2022:

Students are encouraged to follow the “Final-GBO timeline,” described above and in Section 5 – “*New Process - Dissertation Defense and Final GBO.*”

However, a student who started the Ph.D. between Spring 2021 and through Fall 2022 can elect to take a Preliminary GBO Examination that is separate from their dissertation defense, which is described in Section 6, “*Legacy Process - Preliminary GBO Exam and Dissertation Defense.*” This is the approximate examination timeline:

- **Department Qualifier Examination** – about one year after beginning Ph.D. study
- **Preliminary Graduate Board Oral Examination** – about three years after beginning Ph.D. study
- **Dissertation Defense** – usually five years after beginning Ph.D. study.

### Students beginning Ph.D. study in Fall 2020 and earlier:

Students are encouraged to follow the “Final-GBO timeline,” which is described in Section 5 – “*New Process - Dissertation Defense and Final GBO,*” in which case they are exempt from the “doctoral dissertation proposal” requirement.

However, students can elect to take a Preliminary GBO Examination that is separate from their dissertation defense, which is described in Section 6, “*Legacy Process - Preliminary GBO Exam and Dissertation Defense.*” This is the approximate examination timeline:

- **Department Qualifier Examination** – about one year after beginning Ph.D. study
- **Preliminary Graduate Board Oral Examination** – about three years after beginning Ph.D. study
- **Dissertation Defense** – usually five years after beginning Ph.D. study.

Times will vary from student to student.

## 4.2. Course Preparation

Although there are no formal course requirements, students are presumed to be prepared for the Final Graduate Board Oral examination by studies equal to six graduate level (xxx.600-xxx.799) courses in their field of specialization and six advanced (xxx.400-xxx.799) courses in related fields. The student’s faculty advisor will provide guidance on which courses to take to reach this level of preparation.

### 4.3. GBO Examinations – General Structure

For the details of the “Final” and “Preliminary” GBO exam, please refer to the [Graduate Board Oral Exams page](#). Students are encouraged to consult with their faculty advisors about questions on the process. Faculty advisors can consult with the Director of Graduate Studies with questions he or she cannot answer.

### 4.4. Students with Disabilities - Accommodations

Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing welcoming, equitable, and accessible educational experiences for all students.

Students with disabilities (including those with psychological conditions, medical conditions and temporary disabilities) can request accommodations for this exam by providing an Accommodation Letter issued by Student Disability Services (SDS). Please request accommodations for this exam as early as possible to provide time for effective communication and arrangements.

For further information or to start the process of requesting accommodations, please contact [Student Disability Services at the Whiting School of Engineering](#), or contact SDS at 410-516-4720 or [studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu).

## 5. Combined Final GBO / Dissertation Defense - New Process

Students who select the new “Final-GBO timeline” as explained in Section 4.1 will follow these steps after they earn an unconditional pass in their Departmental Qualifier Examination.

### 5.1. Doctoral Dissertation Proposal – New Process

The dissertation proposal and oral presentation are requirements of the PhD program in Mechanical Engineering. The proposal summarizes the research problem that the student is tackling during the PhD and the approach that the student is adopting. The dissertation proposal should also assist the student to place the work in the context of the literature.

#### Timing

The dissertation proposal and presentation must be completed before the end of the third year. A copy of the written proposal should be provided to the committee at least two weeks prior to the date of the presentation.

## Dissertation Proposal Committee

The dissertation proposal committee consists of three faculty members (ideally the same faculty will be members of the GBO/ dissertation defense committee), including the research advisor. The committee is selected by the advisor in consultation with the student. Early formation of the committee is recommended.

The student and committee members can decide together when to meet. The academic staff can help with scheduling a room for the meeting at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu).

## Written Dissertation Proposal

The written dissertation proposal is due two weeks prior to the date of the oral presentation. The proposal must provide a clear outline of the research, its significance, and the approach. The proposal outline is provided below. Students who wish to adopt a different format, e.g. that is preferred for their sub-discipline, must receive the approval of their advisor.

- Title page
- Abstract
- Background and significance (2 pages)
- Research objectives (1 page)
- Proposed approach, including preliminary results (4 pages)
- Planned publications
- Timeline
- References

## Oral Presentation and Discussion

The total duration of this portion is one hour, generally evenly divided between an oral presentation and a discussion with the committee. The format of the presentation (e.g. open/closed to the public) is decided by the advisor. Public presentations must be followed by a closed session where the candidate and the committee discuss the presentation and the written proposal.

## Outcome

The outcome of the Dissertation Proposal is recorded on [the Dissertation Proposal Result form](#) and forwarded to the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu).

If the committee finds that the student has demonstrated a deep understanding of the research questions, their context and a proposed approach, no further action is needed.

If the dissertation proposal or presentation do not demonstrate clear command of the topic, the committee can recommend remedial action or re-evaluation of the candidate after six months. A second unsatisfactory performance would automatically lead to academic probation.

## 5.2. Final GBO / Dissertation Defense - New Process

The Final Graduate Board Oral Examination and Dissertation Defense will be presented simultaneously near the end of a Ph.D. student's career.

### Examiners and Alternate Examiners

The examination is conducted by a panel of five faculty members: two Mechanical Engineering professors, two from outside the Department, and one from either Mechanical Engineering or another Department. One departmental alternate and one outside alternate are also required. The examiners and alternates are selected by the Department Chair in consultation with the student's advisor.

The examination is chaired by the most senior of these outside members, who must be tenured. The examination chair has the right to set the scope of the exam. All examiners and alternates must be available at the same day and time.

### Requesting Examiners

The Homewood Graduate Board has established the [guidelines for the GBO exam](#) and students should familiarize themselves with these procedures, which include an explanation of how examiners are selected, who should be involved in the process, and obtaining approval for examiners from outside Johns Hopkins University.

### Scheduling the Final GBO and Defense - Minimum 8 Weeks' Advance Notice Required

Students preparing to take the final GBO and Dissertation Defense must contact the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) to arrange the exam at least eight weeks prior to the intended exam date. Please [complete this GBO scheduling request form](#) and submit it to the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu).

The advisor and Department Head will then select examiners and alternates. Eight weeks' notice will allow time to confirm availability of the proposed examiners and notify the Graduate Board by their notification deadlines. The academic staff will assist with room arrangements and any special needs.

### Dissertation Readers - 3 Readers are Required

The University's Graduate Board requires two readers: your advisor and another JHU professor. The Mechanical Engineering department requires an additional reader for a total of three.

At least one of the three readers must be a full-time tenure-track Mechanical Engineering professor, whether that is your advisor or another professor. With the Department Head's and the University Graduate Board's prior approval, the third reader can come from outside of Johns Hopkins University. Visit the [Graduate Board](#)

[website on GBOs](#) for info. The readers are usually also members of the Final Graduate Board Oral examination, but not all readers are required to serve on the panel.

The student and advisor may send a copy of the dissertation draft to all Final Graduate Board Oral examiners before the examination, per the purview of the Exam Chair.

### Reimbursement Available for Dissertation Defense Celebration Expenses

The Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association (MEGA) will reimburse up to \$150 for dissertation defense celebration expenses. Contact MEGA at [jhumega@gmail.com](mailto:jhumega@gmail.com) and provide the following:

- Event Name: (example: Dissertation “name” celebration)
- Number of People: (example: 10)
- Affiliations: (example: Masters students, PhD students, staff, faculty, etc. – write down affiliations of everyone involved)
- Location (on campus): (example: Hackerman B17)
- Attach all receipts from your event and state the dollar amount (up to \$150) you would like reimbursed.
- Please also note:
  - Sales tax is not reimbursed.
  - Only on-campus celebrations are eligible for reimbursements.
  - Food and drink can be ordered from outside restaurants but must be consumed on-campus.

## 6. Legacy Process - Preliminary GBO Exam and Dissertation Defense

Students who elect to retain the legacy GBO Exam and Dissertation Defense timeline as explained in Section 4.1 will follow these steps after they earn an unconditional pass in their Departmental Qualifier Examination.

### 6.1. Graduate Board Oral Examination - Legacy Process

The purpose of the Mechanical Engineering preliminary Graduate Board Oral examination is to test the depth and breadth of the student’s knowledge and reasoning abilities.

#### Examiners and Alternate Examiners

The two-hour examination is conducted by a panel of five faculty members: two Mechanical Engineering professors, two from outside the Department, and one from either Mechanical Engineering or another Department. One departmental alternate and one outside alternate are also required. The examiners and alternates are selected by the Department Chair in consultation with the student’s advisor.

The examination is chaired by the most senior of these outside members, who must be tenured. The examination chair has the right to set the scope of the exam. All examiners and alternates must be available at the same day and time.

### **Requesting Examiners**

The Homewood Graduate Board has established the [guidelines for the GBO exam](#) and students should familiarize themselves with these procedures, which include an explanation of how examiners are selected, who should be involved in the process, and obtaining approval for examiners from outside Johns Hopkins University.

### **Scheduling the Preliminary GBO - Minimum 8 Weeks' Advance Notice Required**

Students preparing to take the GBO must contact the academic staff to arrange the exam at least eight weeks prior to the intended exam date. Please [complete this GBO scheduling request form](#) and submit it to the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu).

The advisor and Department Head will then select examiners and alternates. Eight weeks' notice will allow time to confirm availability of the proposed examiners and notify the Graduate Board by their notification deadlines. The academic staff will assist with room arrangements and any special needs.

## **6.2. Dissertation Defense - Legacy Process**

The final and principal requirement for the doctorate is a piece of original research worthy of publication. Candidates must write a dissertation describing their work in detail and pass a final oral examination, which is essentially a defense of the dissertation.

Students should schedule their defense with the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) to make arrangements necessary for the successful completion of their program. Dissertation defense preparation information is available in the ["Preparing for Graduation" page](#).

### **International Students must contact the Office of International Services**

All international students must contact the Office of International Services (OIS) at least two months in advance of the defense date to ensure that their visa status and application for their EAD card and Optional Practical Training is in place.

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 dissertation.

### Dissertation Readers – 3 Readers are Required

The University’s Graduate Board requires two readers: your advisor and another JHU professor. The Mechanical Engineering department requires an additional reader for a total of three.

At least one of the three readers must be a full-time tenure-track Mechanical Engineering professor, whether that is your advisor or another professor. With the Department Head’s and the University Graduate Board’s prior approval, the third reader can come from outside of Johns Hopkins University. Visit the [Graduate Board website on GBOs](#) for info.

### Reimbursement Available for Dissertation Defense Celebration Expenses

The Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association (MEGA) will reimburse up to \$150 for dissertation defense celebration expenses. Contact MEGA at [jhumega@gmail.com](mailto:jhumega@gmail.com) and provide the following:

- Event Name: (example: Dissertation “name” celebration)
- Number of People: (example: 10)
- Affiliations: (example: Masters students, PhD students, staff, faculty, etc. – write down affiliations of everyone involved)
- Location (on campus): (example: Hackerman B17)
- Attach all receipts from your event and state the dollar amount (up to \$150) you would like reimbursed.
- Please also note:
  - Sales tax is not reimbursed.
  - Only on-campus celebrations are eligible for reimbursements.
  - Food and drink can be ordered from outside restaurants but must be consumed on-campus.

### After the Defense

See Section 7.3 for important information on what happens after a successful defense.

## 7. After the Dissertation Defense

### 7.1. Academic Deadlines

Students completing their degrees should contact the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) to ensure that all necessary forms and requirements are completed and submitted *prior* to the academic deadlines for the semester. Information is available in the [“Preparing for Graduation” page](#).

The deadlines to submit all certification material are usually:

- Fall: late-October
- Winter: mid- to late-January
- Spring: late-March (PhD), early-May (MSE)
- Summer: late-July

Students who have not completed their requirements by the first day of classes must register for the current semester.

## 7.2. Submission of Dissertations

Ph.D. dissertations 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).

## 7.3. Confirmation of Degree Completion

Those who have completed their requirements in the summer or fall will receive an interim certificate from the registrar's office indicating that all requirements have been met, and notation will be made on their transcript. Additional information is available in the [Whiting School Graduate Policies and Procedures page](#).

There are a variety of options to obtain confirmation of degree completion, also called an "anticipated degree completion" letter. This may be necessary if one's diploma has not yet been issued or if confirmation other than a diploma is necessary.

- Many employers, universities, and entities will accept a letter from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Please contact the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) to request an "anticipated degree completion" letter.
- Some employers, universities, and entities will require confirmation at the school or university level. Please contact Christine Kavanagh, Associate Vice Dean for Graduate Affairs and Lifelong Learning at [christinekavanagh@jhu.edu](mailto:christinekavanagh@jhu.edu) to request this "anticipated degree completion" letter.
- The Registrar will provide degree verifications after the degree is conferred. Visit the [Enrollment and Degree Verifications page](#) to request one.

*Please see the next page...*

## 8. Policies - General 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.

- [Time Off, Vacation, and Leave](#)
- [Policy on Mentoring Commitments for PhD Students and Faculty Advisors](#)
- [Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs at Homewood](#)
- [Graduate Residency and Registration](#)
- [Whiting School of Engineering's Graduate Academic Policies](#)
- [University General Graduate Student Policies](#) – rights and responsibilities, funding, research integrity, good standing
- Johns Hopkins University [E-Catalog section for Graduate Students](#)
- Johns Hopkins University [Policy on Probation, Funding Withdrawal, and Dismissal](#)

## 9. Miscellaneous Academic Information

### 9.1. Graduate Student Annual Evaluations – due July 31

Johns Hopkins University and 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 thesis research. The evaluation process includes the opportunity for the advisor to initiate the student evaluation on his or her research and academic progress. [The Ph.D. Professional Development Policies and Resources policy](#) describes what is to occur during an annual evaluation.

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 [Graduate Advising page](#) → *Annual Evaluations*.

In Spring, advisors will initiate the evaluation process with their doctoral students and master's students conducting thesis 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 Administrative staff by July 31.

**For students with more than one advisor** - both advisors should participate in the evaluation process and must sign the evaluation form.

**For students with a primary advisor outside the Department of Mechanical Engineering and have a second advisor who is a full-time tenure-track Mechanical Engineering professor - both professors must participate in the evaluation and sign the evaluation form.**

Incomplete evaluation forms will be returned to the student for completion.

## **9.2. Departmental Seminars**

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. A total of six semesters' attendance is required.**

**Registration is optional for 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.**

There are a number of special department seminars and other department seminars. Materials Science and Engineering, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Biomedical Engineering; and Centers, such as CEA FM, CAMCS, HEMI, and CISST offer seminars. These seminars are beneficial, as it is common for GBO examiners to include questions addressed in such seminars.

### **Attendance at other registered seminars cannot be double-counted**

**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.

### **If there are scheduling conflicts**

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.

If students have a scheduling conflict that prevents them from enrolling in the first six semesters as a student, they can postpone enrollment and enroll in a later semester. Students must notify their advisors as well as the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) so a record of the approval of the postponement is kept.

### If there are fewer than 8 Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminars offered

Occasionally, the department is unable to arrange eight Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminars during a semester. If there are fewer than eight offered, registered students will be expected to attend all scheduled Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminars and attend additional seminars elsewhere for a total of 12 seminars.

### 9.3. Informal Student Seminars – Registration May be Required

In preparation for the dissertation defense, students are required to present their work at informal seminars within the Department. Your advisor will explain the scope and expectations of your role as spectator and presenter in these presentations.

#### EN.530.807 Fluids Seminars

All Fluids graduate students must register for this seminar.

#### EN.530.809 Mechanics and Materials Seminars

All Mechanics and Materials graduate students must register for the Mechanics and Solid Materials Student Seminar Series.

#### EN.620.745 Seminar in Computational Sensing and Robotics

All Robotics graduate students must register for this seminar using course number.

As information is received, schedules will be sent to you in advance. Students are expected to attend these seminars, which provide an informal opportunity to learn about the ongoing research work of their colleagues.

### 9.4. 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.

## 10. Master's Degree

The Master's (M.S.E.) degree may be a final degree or it may be earned *en route* to the Ph.D. The requirements for an M.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering as described in Sections "A" and "B," must be met:

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 up to 3 credits from the Center for Leadership Education (EN.660.xxx, EN.661.xxx, EN.662.xxx, and EN.663.xxx), either two 1.5-credit courses or one 3-credit course.
  - Six credits 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 xx5.4xx or higher).
- b) **No more than four courses may be at the advanced undergraduate level** (full-time programs xxx.400 – xxx.499, Engineering for Professionals xx5.4xx).
- 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 eight courses above, students must also complete either two more courses or an essay:

### COURSE OPTION

- a) **Two additional one-semester graduate-level courses** (xx.xxx.6xx or higher, Engineering for Professionals EN.xx5.4xx or higher).
- b) PhD students earning the MSE degree cannot count EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research.
- c) **Ineligible Courses:** EN.530.800 Independent Study, EN.530.801 Ph.D. Graduate Research, EN.530.822 Master's - 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 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.
  - [Learn more about the Research option](#)
  - 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.

- Course Registration
  - All students must register for EN.530.822 Master's Essay - Co-Op and EN.910.600 (Fall and Spring) or EN.530.897 (Summer) Graduate Research - Summer every semester that he or she works in a co-op program to prepare to write a master's essay.
  - 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.

### Course Levels Defined

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

#### Graduate

- Full-time program courses numbered xxx.6xx and higher (e.g. EN.530.621)
- Engineering for Professionals program courses numbered xx5.6xx and higher (e.g. 535.615).

#### Undergraduate

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

### 10.1. MSE Mechanical Engineering - Research Course Agreement

Beginning in Fall 2025 and in later semesters, 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.

## 10.2. 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 reader* being the person (ordinarily a member of the Department's faculty) who supervised the student's project. The *second reader* is any duly appointed member of a department holding the rank of assistant professor or higher (excluding lecturers).

The advisor will consult with the Department Chair if there are questions of eligibility for a proposed second reader, or if the proposed second reader is from outside Johns Hopkins University.

## 10.3. Required Mechanical Engineering Courses

There are a minimum required number of courses that must be taken for the M.S.E. degree, including at least two .600- or .700-level courses, that must be offered by the Mechanical Engineering department (numbered EN.530.xxx) or the Engineering for Professionals' Mechanical Engineering program (number EN.535.xxx):

- Four courses for the "all-course" option
- Three courses for the "essay" option

## 10.4. Grading and Double-Counting Policies

No more than one C grade (C+, C, or C-) can be counted toward the master's degree course requirements.

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

The Mechanical Engineering department double-counts courses using Whiting School of Engineering policy 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. Your academic advisor or the academic staff (at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu)) can answer questions about this policy.

## 10.5. 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.

## 10.6. Master’s Degrees Outside Mechanical Engineering

Students can earn a master’s degree outside of Mechanical Engineering in lieu of the MSE Mechanical Engineering degree. Students should consult with their advisors to include required courses for outside degrees in their course and research plans.

Students can earn master’s degrees in Robotics, Applied Math, Materials Science, Computer Science, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and more! Visit these pages for available degree programs:

- [Whiting School of Engineering master’s degrees](#)
- [Engineering for Professionals master’s degrees](#)
- [Krieger School of Arts and Sciences master’s degrees](#)

## 11. Part-Time, Non-Residency, and Leave of Absences

### 11.1. Part-Time Status

Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. students may switch to part-time status after the successful completion of the Graduate Board Oral examination and the Teaching Assistant requirement, with approval of both the research advisor and the Graduate Program Chair, as well as the International Office for international students.

#### PART-TIME TUITION

Students are charged tuition per-credit. See the [Student Accounts Tuition and Fees page](#) for info on tuition costs per-credit. The student’s advisor or the department may choose to cover this charge, but that is not guaranteed.

#### COURSE REGISTRATION

Part-time students will take three credits of EN.530.801 Graduate Research each

semester and some may continue to take the one-credit EN.530.803 Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminar.

Once a student is on part-time status, the research advisor may excuse the student from the EN.530.803 Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminar requirement. Part-time students or their advisors will pay the part-time per-credit tuition.

### **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.
- Obtain approval from both the research advisor and the Graduate Program Chair
- International students must first obtain approval from the Office of International Services.
- Information on [Whiting School Graduate Credit Hours](#)
- 

## **11.2. Non-Residency Status**

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

Whiting School graduate students are typically granted only one semester of non-residency with the expectation that the dissertation will be written and prepared for defense in that semester. The dissertation defense can occur during that semester or shortly thereafter. 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.

### **NON-RESIDENT RESTRICTIONS**

Non-resident students cannot enroll in courses and would lose the Whiting School's financial support for health insurance. The department could choose to cover health insurance charges, but that is not guaranteed.

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.

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.

### HOW TO OBTAIN NON-RESIDENT STATUS

- Contact academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) 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 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.

### 11.3. 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 four semesters of leave of absence when medical conditions, compulsory military service, or personal or family hardship prevents them from continuing their graduate studies.

Visit the [Homewood Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs page for Enrollment Change forms](#). Select the appropriate form to either request, extend, or return from a Leave of Absence.

The forms will explain that student privileges, degree progress, and access to health insurance may be affected.

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).

### RESOURCES

- [Homewood Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs page for Enrollment Change forms for Enrollment Change forms - non-resident and leave of absence](#).
- [Whiting School of Engineering Policy on Health Insurance](#) > select **Health Insurance**

## 12. Financial Aid

There is a variety of sources of financial aid available to Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. students.

### 12.1. Tuition Fellowships

At the Dean's discretion, tuition fellowships may be awarded to full-time Ph.D. students who are supported by the Department through either faculty research projects or fellowships. Ph.D. candidates are eligible for 100% tuition fellowships in their first year as a Ph.D. student, 80% tuition fellowships in years 2-6, and 60% in years 7 and later.

### 12.2. Research Assistantships

Students working directly on funded research projects are paid by the faculty member's projects conducting that research. Ph.D. students are fully funded – tuition, health insurance, salary, and a one-time matriculation fee – for the duration of their Ph.D. program while they are in a full-time, resident status. This support allows students to progress towards completion of their degrees, but also requires the completion of specific research accomplishments.

In the 2026-27 academic year Research Assistants are typically paid an annual stipend of US \$50,000 as of July 1, 2025; then will rise to US \$52,000 on July 1, 2026. This rate may vary depending on the grant or funding agency, but will be at a minimum of the standard graduate student rate.

There are a few basic rules regarding the holding of a Research Assistantship.

- Regular meetings between the student and faculty advisor are the norm, but vary from advisor to advisor.
- Both the Intersession in January and the summer, June through August are particularly important periods for research progress. Students are expected to make significant effort during these periods.
- Students should discuss any planned absences with their advisors.

### 12.3. Departmental Fellowships

Mechanical Engineering offers the Departmental Fellowship, provided to an outstanding first-year student to allow the opportunity to find an appropriate advisor and embark on research. The current fellowship award includes full tuition remission, health insurance, matriculation fee, and a stipend paid semi-monthly at an annual full-time rate of US \$52,000. This rate is expected to rise on July 1, 2027, to an amount to be determined.

## 12.4. Teaching Assistant

To assist in the teaching function of the Department, Teaching Assistant opportunities are provided to students who grade papers, conduct laboratories, hold office hours, and occasional other duties.

Ph.D. students are required to act as a Teaching Assistant for two courses for approximately 10-15 hours per week during the semester to fulfill this portion of their degree requirements.

In addition, Ph.D. students may be asked to serve in additional Teaching Assistant roles beyond these two courses for the department or the Whiting School of Engineering. The Department will announce opportunities for available positions each semester, as well as assignments made each semester by the department's faculty Teaching Assistant Assignment committee.

Remuneration of Teaching Assistant positions - both the two required for the Ph.D. degree and any additional Teaching Assistant work - are included in the standard compensation per the Ph.D. Teachers and Researchers Union (TRU) Local #197 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## 12.5. Other Financial Aid

The Office of Student Financial Services has other financial aid sources available, even to those who current have full financial support, including research assistantships and some fellowships. Any enrolled or accepted graduate student who is a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen may apply for federal and state financial aid. [Sources of aid, eligibility requirements, applications, and other information](#) are available.

## 12.6. Outside Fellowships and Scholarships

Students might receive fellowships and scholarships offered by organizations outside the University, such as the NSF Fellowship, NDSEG Fellowship, and others.

- Some fellowships and scholarships are administered directly by the organization offering them and they will pay salary directly to fellowship recipients and pay tuition directly to the University.
- Other organizations will send funds directly to the University, where University staff will pay student salaries, tuition, and other support using those fellowship and scholarship funds.

If a fellowship or scholarship pays less than the guaranteed funding offered in the TRU Local #197 Collective Bargaining Agreement, students will receive additional funding so that they receive the full guaranteed funding, including salary, tuition, and health/dental/vision insurance coverage.

## 12.7. A Special Note about NSF Fellowships

The [National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#) (NSF GRFP) offers funding that covers a significant portion of a student's guaranteed funding. The fellowship period is five years where three of those years receive the fellowship funding.

This flexibility allows students and their advisors plan to distribute research grant funding as effectively as possible. Students are asked each April to notify the NSF if they will accept the funding for the next year, known as "tenure" status, or to pause funding for a future year, known as "reserve" status.

**IMPORTANT:** if you are an NSF GRFP recipient and are considering placing next year's funding in "reserve" status to pause funding, please discuss this with your advisor to ensure proper planning of grant funding. Students must use all three years' worth of funding within five years.

**EVEN MORE IMPORTANT:** if you place next year's NSF GRFP funding in "reserve" status to pause funding, *you must contact the academic staff at [me-academic@jhu.edu](mailto:me-academic@jhu.edu) and our Grants and Contracts Manager Lynne Griffith at [lgriff33@jhu.edu](mailto:lgriff33@jhu.edu) by May 15* so the staff can submit the appropriate payroll requests in advance.

If you do not notify the staff in advance, there is no guarantee that your salary can be paid in the correct manner and this will negatively affect how income tax is withheld from pay and recorded on W-2 and 1099 forms.

## 12.8. Student Employment

The [University Experiential Learning office, formerly known as the Student Employment Services office](#) offers opportunities for employment for many positions on the campus. They will help you determine your work eligibility. Should you wish to obtain additional employment, please speak with your advisor so you will be able to fulfill the obligations of your education and research.

# 13. Administration

## 13.1. Department Offices

The Department 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.

## 13.2. 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 in Latrobe 217 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.

**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.

### 13.3. 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](#)

## 14. Purchasing and Travel Reimbursements

### 14.1. Account Numbers are Necessary for Purchases

Account or “budget” numbers for research project expenditures are extremely important. Your advisor has a series of account numbers, and will supply you with the number to use for purchases. Orders cannot be processed without this number, which is either a 9-digit “Internal Order” number for sponsored projects or a 10-digit “Cost Center” for non-sponsored accounts.

### 14.2. Ordering Equipment, Supplies, and Services

Orders for the purchase and acquisition of supplies, equipment and materials must be arranged with the Accounting Specialist. Orders must be received by 3:00 p.m. to allow the possibility of same-day ordering. Orders received after 3:00 p.m., in most cases, will be ordered the next business day.

Send your orders with the following information:

- The vendor’s name and contact information – include, when possible, the postal address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the vendor’s website address.
- Description of the item
- Part number
- Price or valid vendor quote
- The complete Internal Order or Cost Center number to be charged.
- Approval from your advisor or principal investigator, as necessary.
- Tag number for any “equipment” (see sections 9.2.1 and 9.2.2).

Do not send a “shopping cart” link or other link to the product, because the information on the link may change between the time you send the request and the time of the order.

#### **14.2.1. Equipment Items**

Equipment is defined as an article of non-expendable, tangible property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. To order such equipment, three quotes from three vendors are necessary, or a sole source justification letter explaining why a specific vendor must supply the item must be provided.

#### **14.2.2. Tag Numbers**

The JHU Office of Cost Analysis is responsible for identifying, recording, and tagging equipment. Whenever possible, equipment items costing \$5,000 or more are tagged with a University property tag, using a tag that contains a bar-coded property identification number. Property tags are affixed to equipment by Cost Analysis staff in a standard, visible location on the equipment.

*Never remove the Tag Number from your equipment!* The bar-coded Tag Number labels are self-destructive. When removed, bar-coded labels leave a checkered design imprinted on the equipment and the tag cannot be reapplied.

#### **14.2.3. Component Parts**

Component parts are those that will be used to fabricate or build a piece of equipment. Parts to be used in the fabrication of an item of equipment are defined as “equipment” when the total cost is more than \$5,000.

Installation costs and freight charges are considered a part of the cost of equipment. They should be included in the total cost and charged to an equipment object code if the total cost is more than \$5,000.

#### **14.2.4. Supply Items**

Supply items are defined as articles that cost less than \$5,000 and/or have a useful life of less than one year.

#### **14.2.5. Replacement Parts**

Items purchased as replacement parts for a particular piece of equipment are considered supply items since they do not enhance the value of the piece of equipment.

*Please see the next page...*

### 14.3. Return of Merchandise Purchased with a Purchase Order

In the case where merchandise must be returned to the vendor because it is not suitable or a duplicate shipment was received, please observe the following procedures:

- It is your responsibility to contact the vendor to explain the reason for the return and request a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) Number. Ask the vendor if they will pay the return shipping charges, and if so, what procedure should be used to ship the merchandise. Often the vendor will send you a return-shipping label.
- Label the item with the vendor's name and address; write the RMA Number clearly on the package next to the mailing label.
- Bring the package to the Department Office and notify our Administrative Coordinator that the package is a return. Be sure to provide an account number to apply shipping charges.

### 14.4. Get a Tax-Exempt Sales Certificate

JHU is a non-profit organization, and therefore, is exempt from paying sales tax. **If purchases are made with personal funds, sales tax will not be reimbursed to you.**

Purchasing equipment or materials with a personal credit card or with cash is not recommended, but if you absolutely need to do so, please obtain a copy of the tax-exempt sales certificate in the Department Office before making your purchase. Presenting this certificate at the time of purchase will eliminate sales tax from your bill, in most cases.

Please print and keep the [current Tax-Exempt Sales Certificate](#).

Note that some stores, e.g., Wal-Mart will require that you obtain an in-store tax exemption certificate in addition to the JHU tax exemption. Please check with the store before making purchases to ensure that you have all required documents.

### 14.5. Reimbursements

The Department office processes reimbursements for official travel and out-of-pocket expenses for the purchase of materials and supplies.

Reimbursements may be obtained in one of two ways:

- Up to \$100.00: from the Petty Cash Office in Garland Hall using a Petty Cash Voucher.
- Over \$100.00: Check requested from and paid through the Accounts Payable Office. Please allow up to three weeks for the reimbursement to be processed.

## **14.6. Travel**

### **14.6.1. Preferred Vendor: World Travel Services**

[World Travel Services \(WTS\)](#) is a preferred vendor for travel arrangements. They will send invoices instead of requiring a credit card up front, so your credit line will not be accessed or held while waiting for reimbursement or payments. Contact [jhuttravel@worldtravelservice.com](mailto:jhuttravel@worldtravelservice.com) for information.

### **14.6.2. Travel Expense Reimbursements**

Reimbursement for travel expenses must be submitted with a completed and signed Travel Expense Report and will be processed and forwarded to the Accounts Payable Office. Allow two to three weeks for the reimbursement to be processed. Travel Expense Report forms can be obtained from the staff in the Mechanical Engineering administrative office.

It is the student's responsibility to complete the form and attach the necessary original receipts, obtain a signature approval, and account number from the Principal Investigator.

### **14.6.3. Reimbursements for Air Travel**

To reimburse air travel costs, you will need a credit card statement reflecting the cost of the ticket, along with payment confirmation from the airline. For upgrade, luggage, or other additional charges, a receipt is required. A flight itinerary from the airline will not be accepted because proof of payment is not indicated.

### **14.6.4. International Air Travel and the Fly America Act**

The Fly America Act should be followed when foreign travel is required. Federal regulations require that individuals whose travel is supported by federal funds use American flag carrier airlines. Most sponsored accounts have federal fund sources. If you have questions, please see our Administrative Coordinator before arranging air travel.

### **14.6.5. Automobile Insurance**

JHU carries automobile insurance coverage; therefore, if you rent a car that is used for University business, DO NOT purchase additional insurance coverage. You will not be reimbursed for that purchase.

## 15. Payroll

Pay is distributed semi-monthly, on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the last day of the month. If payday falls on a weekend or holiday, paychecks are distributed the last regular working day preceding the payday. Checks will be placed in your mailbox.

You may set up direct deposit in your person Employee Self-Service file.

1. Visit [My.JHU](#). Sign in with your JHED ID and password.
2. Select the “HR” Icon on the left side of your “home” screen.
3. Then select the “ESS” icon. Follow the instructions to sign in and select the “Payroll Information” link

### 15.1. Research Assistantships

The department determines the stipends for Research Assistantships. Other financial assistance, criteria of the grant or contract on which you are performing research may cause your salary to vary from those of your colleagues. Research Assistants are paid from the research funds of their particular advisor.

Research Assistantship stipends are subject to Federal and State tax withholding, which is done automatically through HR/Payroll Shared Services and will be reflected on the pay stub. Students will want to complete a W-4 Federal Tax withholding form and a MW-507 Maryland State withholding form and return them to University Experiential Learning (formerly Student Employment Services).

### 15.2. Fellowships

Stipends are paid to those students on Departmental or other Fellowships.

***NOTE: Fellowship stipends usually have no income tax withheld. Students on fellowships are responsible to file and pay income taxes.***

Students receiving stipends may have to file quarterly withholding reports with the Internal Revenue Service. For information contact the [Tax Office](#) at 443-997-8442 or [tax@jhu.edu](mailto:tax@jhu.edu).

## 16. Safety and Security

### 16.1. Laboratory Safety

Laboratory 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.

### **16.1.1. 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 of their first enrolled semester.

The online modules are currently available at My.JHU.edu -> My Learning. Search for "Intermediate Laboratory Safety - Part 1...", "Intermediate Laboratory Safety - Part 2...", and so on. They are grouped together as "Intermediate Laboratory Safety." 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.

### 16.1.2. 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 website offers directives concerning Safety Responsibilities and Policies, Environmental Monitoring, Fire Safety, Chemical Safety, Laboratory Safety, and Radiation Safety.

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

## 16.2. 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 systems in case something happens to computer via virus, equipment problems, or theft. The University provides free [anti-virus software](#).
- **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.

*Please see the next page...*

## 17. Email Etiquette

Email is an important tool where information can be communicated, hopefully 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 with a subject related to the question.

### 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 Joe Smith" - while that is culturally acceptable in some areas of the world, it is typically undesirable in American business 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.

## 18. Facilities

### 18.1. Graduate Student Offices

As space provides, full-time Ph.D. graduate students are provided with a desk in a group office. In consultation with the faculty Space Committee, the department assigns the desks. *The department does not furnish computers or other desk supplies.*

The department will provide you with your office assignment, as well as arrange to issue you keys or provide J-card swipe access. A \$5 deposit is charged for each key issued, which will be returned to you when you return the keys.

### 18.2. 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:ssstich@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.

### 18.3. 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 before one can work in the student machine shop.

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

### 18.4. 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.

### 18.4.1. 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.

### 18.4.2. 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.

### 18.4.3. Software Downloads

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

## 19. 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.

For additional information and to access the services of the SDS office, please contact them at 410-516-4720 or [studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu), or visit their office in 385 Garland Hall.

## 20. Student Groups and Activities

### 20.1. 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.

## 20.2. 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 Homewood Campus's [Graduate Representative Organization](#). The GRO is an advocacy group for all graduate students. They serve the student body as a liaison to Homewood'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.

## 20.3. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

Visit the [ASME](#) faculty advisor, Dr. Steven Marra ([marra@jhu.edu](mailto:marra@jhu.edu)) in Latrobe 123 for information and application materials.

## 20.4. Extracurricular Activities

As a department, Mechanical Engineering participates in University intramural athletics. Mechanical Engineering has and will continue to field 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 notified of 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). The staff will announce it to the Mechanical Engineering community.

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

### 20.4.1. Johns Hopkins University

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

### 20.4.2. 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](#)

## **21. 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.

## **22. Appendices**

Please see the next page for appendices.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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
	Semester Completed				Responsible Conduct of Research

**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?

**...plus two to four courses, 6 or more total credits, any combination of these:**

- Two 3 or 4-credit courses from any department other than the Center for Leadership Education
- One 3 or 4-credit course from any department and 3 credits from the Center for Leadership Education (1.5-3 credits each)
- 6 credits from the Center for Leadership Education courses (1.5-3 credits each)

Center for Leadership Education courses are numbered EN.660.xxx, EN.661.xxx, EN.662.xxx, and EN.663.xxx.

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** (xxx.400 – 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.
- or may notAt 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.530.801/802 PhD Graduate Research, EN.530.820 MSE Graduate Research, EN.530.821/822 MSE Essay, 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. Exceptions are available for courses taken in Spring 2020, Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. See the Master's Advising Manual for details.

## 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.530.820 MSE All-Course Graduate Research or EN.530.823 MSE Graduate Research\*
  - **BS/MSE and MSE students only:** one of these two courses can be EN.530.820 or 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.530.820 or EN.530.823.
- **Ineligible Courses:** EN.530.800 Independent Study, EN.530.821 Master’s Essay - Research and Writing, EN.530.822 Master’s Essay – Co-Op, and 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?	Was the Course taken as a JHU undergrad?	Is the Course Transferred from Another Institution?	Is this a Math Course?

\* If counting EN.530.820 MSE All-Course - Graduate Research or 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>Research Laboratory Safety</b> – date completed and briefly describe training done.	

### Essay Option

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.530.821 Master’s Essay - Research and Writing or EN.530.822 Master’s Essay - Co-Op or 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



Graduate Board Oral Examination for Ph.D. Degree

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ 6-digit Student Hopkins ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form to the Mechanical Engineering staff eight weeks in advance of the earliest proposed date of the GBO to help ensure that the examiners and alternates will be available on at least one of the dates.

EXAMINATION DATES

Please provide choices of examination dates and periods, with at least a one-month span of dates where possible.

Table with 3 columns: Choice, Date, Preference. Rows for 1st through 6th choices, each with checkboxes for morning, afternoon, and either.

GBO Examination Committees have two examiners whose primary faculty appointment is with the Mechanical Engineering department and two professors from other departments, plus one from either Mechanical Engineering or another Department. One of the outside professors, who will serve as the examination chair must be tenured. One Alternate Examiner from the Mechanical Engineering department and one from another department must also be chosen.

Advisors are asked to confirm availability with each prospective examiner and alternate about their availability to serve on the committee before submitting this form. University policy does not allow or require students to contact potential examiners and alternates.

Faculty with these primary appointment titles are eligible to serve on GBO Examination Committees: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Assistant Research Professor, Associate Research Professor, Research Professor, Academy Professor, Emeritus Professor.

Faculty with other appointment titles are generally ineligible to serve on GBO Examination Committees, and require prior approval of the Graduate Board. Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Associate Teaching Professors, and Teaching Professors are ineligible to serve on GBO Examination Committees.

A complete list of academic titles and their eligibility to serve on GBO Examination Committees is provided in a table in the document "Description of Academic Titles" available on the Homewood Academic Council website.

**EXAMINERS and ALTERNATES**

A. Please list, in order of preference three or more Mechanical Engineering professors to serve. The advisor and the first available choice will serve as examiners. The next available choice will serve as an alternate.

Choice	Professor's Name	Professor's Rank	Professor's E-mail
1 <sup>st</sup> - Advisor			
2nd			
3rd			
4th			
5th			
6th			

B. Please list, in order of preference at least four and up to 10 professors from other departments, any of whom you would like to be the examiners or alternates. The first three available will serve as examiners. The next available will serve as an alternate.

Choice	Professor's Name	Professor's Rank	Professor's E-mail
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
4th			
5th			
6th			
7th			
8th			
9th			
10th			

Please note any equipment needs or special circumstances:


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For additional information, please review the Graduate Board Oral Exams policy at <http://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/academics/graduate-board/graduate-board-oral-exams/>.

Advisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received by Mechanical Engineering staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate of Degree Completion				
Doctor of Philosophy - Department of Mechanical Engineering				
	Name			
	Hopkins ID#			
	Faculty Advisor			
	Semester of Graduation			
	Last Semester Registered			
	Required Introductory Courses	EN.500.603 Academic Ethics	EN/AS.360.625 Responsible Conduct of Research	Research Laboratory Safety
	Semester Completed			

## REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Requirement Level	Date or Semester Completed
Complete a minimum of two consecutive semesters as a full-time resident graduate student.	University	
Serve as Teaching Assistant for at least two courses.	Department	
Departmental Qualifying Exam – unconditional pass.	Department	
Graduate Board Oral Exam – unconditional pass	University	
Register and Pass EN.530.801 (and formerly EN.530.802 – Spring) Graduate Research every semester while full-time	Department	
Register and Pass EN.530.803 (Fall) and (and formerly EN.530.804 - Spring) Mechanical Engineering Graduate Seminar each semester for the first three years while full-time, unless there is documented exoneration that must be provided with this document.	Department	
Defend dissertation	University	

## DISSERTATION

Dissertation Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Was the Dissertation submitted to the Library?  No  Yes Date Submitted, if "Yes:" \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date