Civil and Environmental Engineering, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in civil and environmental engineering requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate coursework, including at least 43 s.h. in formal coursework. Students may count a maximum of 29 s.h. in CEE:7999 Research: Civil and Environmental Engineering Ph.D. Dissertation toward the degree. Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00. The doctoral degree is granted primarily on the basis of achievement rather than on a prescribed course of study.

Students may count up to 24 s.h. from the M.S. in civil and environmental engineering or from another qualified graduate program toward the Ph.D. with departmental approval.

All students usually need at least three years of full-time graduate study to complete the degree. They must pass a qualifying examination and must pass a written and oral comprehensive examination before they may be formally admitted to Ph.D. candidacy; the comprehensive examination usually is taken after all required coursework has been completed. Students devote one year to the preparation of a dissertation that contributes to knowledge in the field; they must defend their dissertation successfully in a final examination.

Core Courses

Students must successfully complete the appropriate civil and environmental graduate core courses for their area of focus. They are expected to complete core courses during their first year of study.

Elective Courses

Students should choose elective courses from any academic area that strengthens their knowledge of water and the environment and provides needed research topic training. Independent study, such as CEE:5998 Individual Investigations: Civil and Environmental Engineering, is not considered a suitable elective.

Seminars

All full-time students are required to register for and participate in seminars in their respective program of study; this includes CEE:5096 Water, Energy, and Food Nexus Seminar for areas that fall under the water and the environment curriculum (environmental engineering, environmental science, hydraulics, sustainable water development, and water resources) or CEE:5098 Graduate Seminar in Structures, Materials, Mechanics, and Transportation for students in structures, mechanics and materials or transportation engineering. Depending on the program of study, there may be additional seminar requirements. For more detailed information, visit the department’s Graduate Program Resources web page.

Ethics Course

Students must enroll in ENGR:7270 Engineering Ethics.

Dissertation

Students must complete a dissertation and may apply up to 29 s.h. in CEE:7999 Research: Civil and Environmental Engineering Ph.D. Dissertation toward the degree. A total of 6 s.h. may be taken on a graded basis at the discretion of the advisor. Consult the department’s Graduate Program Resources web page for more detailed information about different program of study areas.