Degree Programs
Department of Mechanical Engineering

- Master of Science (Non-Thesis)
  - Course Based; Non-Thesis Degree Option

- Master of Science (M.S.)
  - Course and Research Based / Thesis Degree Option

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
M.S. (Non-Thesis)*
Department of Mechanical Engineering

- 30 total credits of 6000/7000 level graded courses in science/engineering.
- 21 credits of graded courses in MECH 6000/7000 category.
  » Course substitution from other engineering/science disciplines is permitted when appropriate MECH courses are unavailable.
- 9 credits of graded courses from science/engineering category (could include additional courses in MECH 6000/7000 category).
- Three committee members (including major professor).
- Generally limited to unfunded on-campus or off-campus students.
- On-campus students are required to attend Mechanical Engineering Seminars.

*There is no comprehensive final/oral exam by the committee requirement as of Spring 2011.
M.S. (Thesis Option)  
Department of Mechanical Engineering

- 30 total credits (graded courses and research) of 6000/7000 level in science/engineering.
- 21 credits of MECH 6000/7000 level course work (including 6 credits of MECH 7990: Research & Thesis).
  » Course substitution from other engineering/science disciplines is permitted when appropriate MECH courses are unavailable.
- 9 credits of graded courses from any science/engineering category (could include additional graded courses in MECH 6000/7000 category).
- Written thesis submission.
- Thesis defense / Oral examination by a committee (Graduate School Form-9 needs to be completed).
- Three committee members (includes major professor).
- Thesis option required for all on-campus students on GTA/GRA/Fellowship.
- Thesis research typically involves effort well beyond 6 credits of course work.
- Required to attend Mechanical Engineering Seminars.
Ph.D.
Department of Mechanical Engineering

- 60 total credit hours of courses and research beyond B.S. degree.
- Minimum of 30 credits of graded courses at 6000/7000/8000 level.
- 21 credits of graded MECH 7000/8000 level course work.
  » Substitution from other engineering/science disciplines is permitted when appropriate MECH courses are unavailable.
- 9 credits of graded courses in a coordinated minor area outside MECH category (science/engineering).
- At least 10 credits of MECH 8990: Res. & Dissertation.
- Four committee members (Including the major professor, one member from the minor area) (+ 1 Graduate school representative for final dissertation review and defense).
- Written qualifying exams (Coordinated by candidate’s major professor).
- General oral exam by a committee (submit “General Oral Examination Application Form” to Grad School before the exam).
- Dissertation and final oral exam (dissertation defense) (submit “General Doctoral Examination Application Form” to Grad School before the exam).
- Allow one semester gap between general doctoral exam and dissertation defense.
- Required to attend Mechanical Engineering Seminars.
Qualifying exam consists of a **written part** and an **oral part**, preferably within the **first two years**.

Your major professor, in coordination with the candidate’s dissertation committee, will administer the written qualifying exam. Subsequently, the major professor will also coordinate an oral exam/proposal.

The syllabus/topics for the written exam will be made available to the candidate in advance; else, check with your major professor.

Written exam results will be intimated to the student in writing.

A few weeks prior to the oral exam, fill-out ‘**General Oral Examination Application Form**’ at the graduate school website.
Ph.D. Qualifying Exam: Written Part
Department of Mechanical Engineering

• **As a minimum**, the student is required to pass (i) two MECH subject area exams, OR, (ii) one exam in MECH and one exam in the MINOR area.

• Exams generally focus on undergraduate/technical elective course content.

• Exams are developed and administered by the major professor and members of the committee.

• Exam format: In-class, 3 hours per subject area, 70% passing grade or other minimum passing score decided by the Committee, two attempts to pass.

• Take written qualifying exams within the first two years.
Plan-of-Study
Department of Mechanical Engineering

– Identify your major professor.

– Discuss with your major professor course work and research topic.


– Plan-of-study can be revised but needs approval when revised.
Credit Transfers
Department of Mechanical Engineering

- Total number of credit hours that may be transferred from another institution towards a master’s or doctoral degree may be no more than 50% of the total course credit hours for the program.
- Can only transfer courses with a ‘B’ or better grade.
- Cannot transfer credits to improve GPA at Auburn (e.g., to resolve academic probation).
- Transfer credits must fall within the time limits of the degree.
- Transfer credits must be approved by the advisory committee and the graduate school.
Second Master’s Degree

Graduate School policy:

– For a second master’s degree, the student fulfills all requirements applicable to any other master’s degree, including the thesis, if appropriate. The student may, on recommendation of the advisory committee, transfer a limited number of credit hours from the previous master’s degree. At least 24 semester hours, or 50% of the total hours required for the degree (whichever is greater) must be unique to each degree and be taken at Auburn University.
Miscellaneous
Department of Mechanical Engineering

“Gold Form” (or, Full Course Study Form)
– International students pursuing Ph.D. need to fill out a “gold form” after the completion of 60 credits (minimum 30 credits of graded courses + minimum 10 credits of MECH 8990) to stay in legal status and receive GTA/GRA funds.

Please visit Office of International Programs website to download the form: http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/isss/docs/full_course_of_study_instructions.pdf

Probation
– If a student’s GPA falls below 3.0, the graduate school will place him/her on ‘probation.’ Students who are on probation will be dismissed from their GTA duties.
Curricular Practical Training (CPT): International Students

- Curricular practical training is currently not an integral part of the Mechanical Engineering Department’s curriculum.
- It is generally limited to a graduate student who enrolled in MS (Non-Thesis) program and not financially supported by the department.
- Graduate students receiving financial support as a GRA need to work with their major professor for securing approvals.
Research Publications
Department of Mechanical Engineering

– Students pursuing MS and PhD degrees are expected to publish their research in peer-reviewed technical conference proceedings and archival quality journals.

– A minimum of one peer-reviewed technical conference publication and/or one archival quality journal publication is suggested for MS students.

– A minimum of two peer reviewed technical conference publications and/or two archival quality journal publications is suggested for PhD students.

– Consult your major professor for further details.
In addition to the soft copy of thesis/dissertation required by the Graduate School,

- Students are required to submit 3 paper copies of approved/signed thesis/dissertation to Mechanical Engineering Department
- The paper copies should be printed on white bond watermarked paper of at least 16 pound weight and at least 25 percent cotton content
- The Mechanical Engineering Department will bind the copies and distribute one copy to the major professor, one copy to the departmental library and one to the student
- Cost of binding additional copies will be the responsibility of the student
Graduation
Department of Mechanical Engineering

You need to:

- **Be a registered student** during the semester you graduate
- **Complete graduation check** with the graduate school
- **Return all keys** to Access Control at AU Facilities Division
- **Return books, desk keys, and other items** to Mechanical Engineering Office
- **Turn-in original data-log books, lab records, electronic records of research** to your major professor
- **Provide Mechanical Engineering Office** your future contact information (complete graduate student exit questionnaire at [http://www.eng.auburn.edu/programs/mech/programs/grad/grad-survey.html](http://www.eng.auburn.edu/programs/mech/programs/grad/grad-survey.html))
- **As an alumnus of Mechanical Engineering**, we want you to keep in touch with us; please update your contact information as you progress in your career