COMPUTER ENGINEERING MS

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/).

MS Degree Options

There are three MS degree plans available: Thesis, Project, and Course-only. Students declare their intention to follow one of the degree plans no later than May 1st of the 3rd academic quarter (typically the spring quarter of the first year of study).

Common Requirements

Three plans are available, as shown below. For all three plans, the following are required:

- **Course Requirements:**
  - **12 total units required**, including 6 core units and 6 elective units.
  - All courses must be at the **300-level or higher**.
  - At least 3 courses must be at the **400-level or above**, including COMP_ENG 499-0 Projects but excluding COMP_ENG 590-0 Research.
  - The only course that may be taken **Pass/No Pass (P/N)** is COMP_ENG 590-0 Research.
- **Core Unit Requirements:**
  - **6 units** from Electrical Engineering (ELEC_ENG) or Computer Engineering (COMP_ENG) courses.
  - At least **3 units** must be Computer Engineering (**COMP_ENG**) courses.
  - **Exceptions:** COMP_ENG 499-0 Projects and COMP_ENG 590-0 Research do not count toward the 6 core courses.
- **Elective Unit Requirements:**
  - **6 units** from Electrical Engineering (ELEC_ENG), Computer Engineering (COMP_ENG), or Computer Science (COMP_SCI) courses.
  - Up to **3 units** may be taken outside ECE and CS courses with advisor approval.
  - At most **3 units** of COMP_ENG 590-0 Research for MS Thesis, or **2 units** for MS Project.
  - At most **3 units** of COMP_ENG 499-0 Projects.
- **Additional Information:** Additional requirements are listed in the **ECE Graduate Study Manual**.

Plan 1: Thesis

Additional requirements:

- Up to **three** credits may be COMP_ENG 590-0 Research towards your 6 elective units.
- A **written thesis** is required, and must follow the approved format.
- An **oral defense** is optional, but strongly encouraged.
- A **research advisor** and **thesis committee** must be established by the student.

Plan 2: Project

Additional requirements:

- Up to **two** credits may be towards your 6 elective units.
- A **project technical report** is required, and must follow the approved format.
- A **research or project advisor** must be established by the student.

Plan 3: Course-only

Additional requirements:

- may **not** be included in the 12 required units.