

# ELECTRICAL 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 ELEC\_ENG 499-0 Projects but excluding ELEC\_ENG 590-0 Research.
  - The only course that may be taken **Pass/No Pass (P/N)** is ELEC\_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 Electrical Engineering (**ELEC\_ENG**) courses.
  - **Exceptions:** ELEC\_ENG 499-0 Projects and ELEC\_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 ELEC\_ENG 590-0 Research for MS Thesis, or **2 units** for MS Project.
  - At most **3 units** of ELEC\_ENG 499-0 Projects.
- **Additional Information:** Additional requirements are listed in the **ECE Graduate Study Manual**.

## Plan 1: Thesis

Additional requirements:

- Up to **3 credits** may be ELEC\_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 **2 credits** may be ELEC\_ENG 590-0 Research 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:

- ELEC\_ENG 590-0 Research may **not** be included in the 12 required units.