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1. Introduction

This handbook should be used in conjunction with the SDSU Graduate Bulletin which is available at http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/bulletin/. It describes programs of relevance to students in the Mechanical Engineering department. Additional information is also available at the departmental website http://mechanical.sdsu.edu/mechanical/ and at the Graduate Affairs website http://aztecgrad.sdsu.edu/gra/Default.aspx.

2. The Mechanical and Bioengineering Programs

The department offers graduate education in Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering at the Master's and Doctoral levels, preparing students to work and conduct cutting-edge research in such emerging areas as advanced materials and materials processing, mechanics of nontraditional materials, design of medical devices, energy storage, micro- and nano-electromechanical systems, nanotechnology, neural engineering, porous media flows, renewable energy, robotics and control, smart health, and tissue engineering. The doctoral program is offered jointly with the University of California, San Diego.

2.1 Program Options

- B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering (4+1 Program)
- B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S. in Bioengineering (4+1 Program)
- Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering (MEng)
- Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME)
- Master of Science in Bioengineering (MSBE)
- Joint Doctoral Program (JDP) with UC San Diego (Ph.D. Degree).

2.2 Program Description

2.2.1 Combined B.S. and M.S. (4+1) Programs

Two integrated five year Bachelor's-Master's programs are available in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. These programs are designed to give students the opportunity to focus in a subfield of interest in either mechanical engineering (design and manufacturing, dynamics and control, energy and thermofluids, materials and mechanics), or bioengineering (biomaterials, biomechanics). Upon successful completion of 155/158 units of coursework and a thesis, the students will be simultaneously awarded the B.S. degree in mechanical engineering and either the M.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering, or the M.S. degree in Bioengineering.

To satisfy the requirements for the BS/MS (4 + 1) degree programs, students must achieve at least a 3.0 average in the 30 units of courses used to satisfy the graduate program of study. Of the 30 units, a maximum of nine units may be in 500-numbered mechanical engineering electives. Three 500-level courses may be used to fulfill the elective requirements for the (4+1) BS/MS degree program at the same time as serving as prerequisite courses for graduate study. For the BS/MS (4 + 1) degree program leading to the B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, students can use any three 500-level ME courses toward their graduate degree. For the BS/MS (4 + 1) degree program leading to B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S. in Bioengineering, students must take ME 580, and 585 for the biomechanics specialization; ME 580, 540 or 543, and 585 for the biomaterials specialization. Students in the BS/MS (4 + 1) degree programs must follow the thesis option.
2.2.1.1 Application for Combined B.S. and M.S. Programs

Students must apply and be admitted to the BS/MS (4+1) program. Once you apply and are admitted into the program you must fulfill all requirements of the BS/MS (4+1) program before you will be granted the BS or the MS degree. If you change your mind and decide to go back to the Mechanical Engineering major BS degree, you will not be able to reenter the BS/MS (4+1) program and the graduate units you completed will not count towards a graduate degree at SDSU. The following requirements must be satisfied in order to apply for the program:

1. Must have completed a minimum of 90 but no more than 115 units that count towards either the BS or the MS programs.
2. 3.0 or better GPA in ME 304 (or CIVE 301), ME 350, and AE 340
3. 3.0 overall GPA
4. 3.0 ME Upper Division Major GPA
5. Satisfactory score on the GRE Sum of verbal and quantitative must be greater than 306
6. Satisfactory score on the TOEFL, if needed
7. Submission of a Thesis Advisor Form signed by the Thesis Advisor.

Exceptions may be considered if a statement of justification is provided by the ME Faculty Advisor and is then approved by the departmental Graduate Committee and the Graduate Division.

2.2.2 Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME) and Bioengineering (MSBE)

2.2.2.1 MSME program

A total of 30 units constituting of 21 units of coursework and 9 units of thesis work (designated as thesis option- Plan A) or 27 units of coursework and 3 units of project (designated as non-thesis option- Plan B) are required for graduation.

The student’s program, prepared in conference with and approved by the Graduate Advisor, must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Twenty-one units of coursework:
   a. Twelve units in one area of specialization (designated as Group A, B, C, or D), with no more than six units of 500-level courses.
   b. Nine additional units of 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses (excluding ME 797, 798, 799A, 799B, 799C) selected in consultation with the Graduate Advisor.
   c. At least 15 units of coursework (excluding ME 797, 798, 799A, 799B, 799C) from mechanical engineering. Please note paragraph in italics below.

2. Nine additional units:
   a. Thesis students: Six units of ME 797 and three units of 799A or 799B (thesis).
   b. Non-thesis students: Three units of ME 797 and six units of 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses from mechanical engineering.

3. The total number of units from 500-level courses should not exceed nine.

4. All 700-level courses must be from the Mechanical Engineering department.
Note: Incoming students may transfer up to 9 units of course credit, including courses taken through San Diego State University College of Extended Studies, for the MSME program. Based on the number of units transferred, the requirement about units of courses to be taken in Mechanical Engineering will change. For example, if 9 units are, in fact, transferred, the number of additional units of coursework required from Mechanical Engineering will change to 12 for the thesis option and 18 for the non-thesis option. The decision whether a course can be transferred and what the course will be used towards, e.g. specialization, elective, has to be made by the Graduate Advisor and Graduate Affairs on a case by case basis.

Group A - Design and Manufacturing: ME 540, ME 543, ME 555, ME 580, ME 585, ME 596, ME 610, ME 645, ME 683, ME 685, ME 696
Group B - Dynamics and Control: ME 520, ME 530, ME 596, ME 696
Group C - Energy and Thermofluids: ME 552, ME 555, ME 556, ME 596, ME 651, ME 653, ME 656, ME 657, ME 658, ME 661, ME 696, AE 601, AE 612, AE 644
Group D - Materials and Mechanics: ME 520, ME 540, ME 543, ME 580, ME 596, ME 610, ME 645, ME 681, ME 696, AE 621, AE 641

2.2.2.2 MSBE program

A total of 30 units is required. Of these, 15 units of coursework (excluding 797, 798, 799 courses) must be from Engineering. At least 12 units of coursework must be at the 600-level or 700-level (excluding 797, 798, 799 courses). There are two areas of specialization. Each area has a required number of courses which are listed below, additional elective courses, and 9 units of thesis.

Biomaterials: BIOL 585, ME 540, ME 681, ME 685, ME 696 (Tissue Engineering)
Biomechanics: BIOL 590, ME 580, ME 610, ME 681, ME 685, ME 696 (Tissue Engineering)

The list of elective courses are: AE 601, AE 621, BIOL 585, BIOL 590, BIOL 597A, CHEM 711, CHEM 712, CHEM 751, EE 502, EE 503, EE 539, ENS 610, ENS 611, ENS 612, ENS 613, ENV E 554, ENV E 648, ME 502, ME 540, ME 543, ME 580, ME 585, ME 610, ME 640, ME 645, ME 656, ME 681, ME 683, PHYS 670A, PHYS 670 B

2.2.3 Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering

The Master of Engineering degree is a practice-oriented, interdisciplinary degree designed to meet the needs of students who are interested in furthering a career in engineering with a business/management emphasis. The student will select his/her own program in consultation with the program adviser of the respective department subject to the guidelines listed below. In addition to the course requirements, the student is required to complete a design project and a final written report. This phase of the program introduces the student to the problems and solutions faced by practicing engineers. The program is designed for both the industrial professional who is seeking a career enhancement and also
to the new baccalaureate graduate who wants to continue to study in order to be able to enter the work force with well-defined and honed professional skills.

The student must complete a graduate program of **36 units** to include:

- 18 units of graduate engineering courses
- 12 units of graduate business courses
- 6 units of project registered under ENGR 798.

The courses in engineering and business administration are selected in consultation with the graduate adviser. With the consent of the adviser, one unit of ENGR 798, with appropriate content, may be substituted for one unit in business administration. No more than a total of seven units of 798 will be accepted for credit towards the degree. The industry-oriented design project is to be selected in cooperation with the graduate adviser in the area of interest. Typically, the students take this project at the end of the program of study as a culminating experience integrating engineering and business knowledge attained through coursework and experience. A formal written report of project findings will be submitted and approved by a committee of two engineering faculty members and one faculty member from business administration. The contacts for the Master of Engineering Program are:

**Department:** Dr. John Abraham, Chair of Department, E-326B, 619-594-2450, jabraham@mail.sdsu.edu

**College of Engineering:** Dr. Eugene Olevsky, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, College of Engineering, and Director of the JDP, E-203A, 619-594-6061, eolevsky@mail.sdsu.edu

**Fowler College of Business:** Dr. Nikhil Varaiya, Professor and Director of Graduate Programs, 619-594-7713, nvaraiya@mail.sdsu.edu

**2.2.4 General requirement for Master's Degrees**

To receive the Master's Degree at San Diego State University, the candidate must complete the following general requirements as well as the more specific program requirements stated above.

**2.2.4.1 Official Programs of Study**

Official programs of study are to be submitted to the Division of Graduate Affairs for approval after the student has been granted classified graduate standing. The program must be submitted prior to or concurrent with the time the student wishes to be considered for advancement to candidacy and the student must be in good academic standing at the time of submission.

When course requirements listed on an official Master's degree program deviate from those prescribed in the Graduate Bulletin, the student must submit to the graduate dean a petition for adjustment of academic requirements.

It is the student's responsibility to complete the specific courses listed on the official program of study with a grade of C or better. No changes will be permitted unless recommended by the graduate adviser and approved by the graduate dean. No course can be deleted from an official program of study after the course has been completed. This includes a course for which a student has registered and received an “Incomplete” or “Report in Progress” grade.
2.2.4.2 Advancement to Candidacy
A student who holds classified graduate standing and who meets the scholastic, professional, and personal standards of the university may be considered for advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree at the point of submission of the official program of study.

In addition to having classified graduate standing and the grade point averages specified above, the student must have maintained the required grade point averages with no grade of less than 2.0 (C) in a program course, completed all the undergraduate deficiencies, and the special requirements of the department or school concerned. The Division of Graduate Affairs will send the students written notification of advancement to candidacy.

A program of study must be on file at least one semester prior to graduation. A student may not enroll in 799A, take a Plan B comprehensive examination, or enroll in certain courses within the degree program until advanced to candidacy.

2.2.4.3 Additional Restrictions on Earning Credits toward a Graduate Degree
Credit earned by correspondence or by examination is not acceptable on advanced degree programs. Courses applied toward one advanced degree may not be used to fulfill the requirements of another advanced degree. Courses designated undergraduate level cannot be used towards an advanced degree. Coursework completed prior to earning a baccalaureate degree is not applicable toward any future graduate degree except under policy for concurrent master's degree credit.

When directed by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, some students may be required to obtain approval when additional coursework, not on the official Master's degree program, is required to prepare for a thesis or a project. The additional courses must be recommended by the graduate adviser and approved by the Division of Graduate Affairs in order for the student to receive financial aid.

2.2.4.4 Degree Time Limitations
All requirements for advanced certificates and Master's degrees coursework must be completed within six consecutive calendar years after initial registration. All requirements for Master's and joint Master's degrees entailing more than 36 units must be completed within seven consecutive calendar years after initial registration. Time spent on leave of absence is counted toward the degree time limit. Time spent in compulsory service by active duty military is not counted toward the degree time limit. Students who do not graduate by this deadline will be subject to administrative disqualification by the graduate dean. With the approval of the program or department graduate adviser, a student in the sixth academic year of graduate study may appeal to the graduate dean for a one-year time limit extension. Students who exceed the time limit and wish to continue their studies must formally apply for new admission. Programs readmitting students who have been disqualified for exceeding the time limit should consult with the student at the time of readmission to determine whether credits previously earned will meet current degree requirements. Disqualified and readmitted students will be held to current Graduate Bulletin requirements and will need approval from their program adviser to use expired courses.

2.2.5 Selecting an Advisor
Preferably within the first semester, but no later than the end of the second semester, a graduate student needs to find a thesis advisor. Thesis and project topics can be collaborative and inter-disciplinary, involving more than one faculty.
To help you find a thesis advisor, you can visit the faculty websites found at Mechanical Engineering department website to learn more about their research areas. Once you have found a thesis advisor, you need to complete a thesis advisor form and return it to the ME office.

Students opting for a non-thesis option (Plan B) instead of a thesis (Plan A) are also expected to get an ME faculty advisor during their first semester at SDSU. It is the responsibility of the student to find a faculty advisor for the ME 797 course. The student should complete the project advisor form by the end of his/her first semester at SDSU.

2.2.6 The Joint Doctoral Program (JDP)

The JDP program is offered jointly by San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego. An applicant for admission must be admitted to regular graduate standing at SDSU and UCSD. Upon admission, the directors of the Engineering Joint Doctoral Program at SDSU and UCSD will appoint a three member Advisory Committee consisting of at least one member from each institution.

2.2.6.1 Doctoral Qualifying Examination

It is the responsibility of this committee to develop in consultation with the student a course of study and plan of preparation for the Doctoral Qualifying Examination. On average, a student will take between 10 and 12 courses. An overall graduate GPA of 3.5 is required for continuation in the program. The qualifying examination should be taken as soon as possible after the two years of study at the two institutions. Students with advanced standing may be capable of taking the exam earlier.

The examination committee is designated by the UCSD department and consists of four members, three chosen in consultation with the primary co-advisers to represent the subject areas covered during the examination, and one appointed from a related academic department. At least one, but not more than two, of these members are from SDSU. The qualifying examination committee is chaired by the UCSD co-adviser of the student.

The examination will be oral, will cover at least four areas selected so as to ensure appropriate competence in the general areas of engineering science, and will be at the level and content of both SDSU and UCSD courses already completed.

2.2.6.2 The Joint Doctoral Committee

Upon successful completion of the Doctoral Qualifying Examination, a Joint Doctoral Committee shall be appointed by the Deans of the Graduate Divisions of SDSU and UCSD. The committee shall supervise the study and research program of the student. The Joint Doctoral Committee consist of at least five officers of instruction, with two members from SDSU, two members from UCSD, and one tenured UCSD member from outside the department of the candidate. At least two members should represent specialties different from the student's chosen field. The two co-advisers, one from each institution, serve as co-chairs of the Joint Doctoral Committee. The committee supervises the research work of the student, administers the Senate Candidacy Examination and the Dissertation Defense.

After admission, the student must spend at least one year in full-time residence on each of the two campuses. At SDSU, the year of full-time residence consists of registration in and completion of at least 9 semester units of graduate level courses or six semester units of research or dissertation courses each semester of the year of residence.
2.2.6.3 Senate Qualifying/Ph.D. Candidacy Exam

The student's Joint Doctoral Committee will administer the examination, which will consist of a presentation of the students' proposed research topic, initial dissertation results, and plans for future research. Upon successfully completing the Senate Qualifying Examination, the student may apply to both institutions for advancement to candidacy for the appropriate doctoral degree. The student must be a candidate at least two semesters (1 year) prior to the award of the degree.

2.2.6.5 Doctoral Dissertation Defense

The Joint Doctoral Committee will administer the final examination, which will consist of two parts: the student's submission of the written dissertation and the student’s oral presentation of the dissertation results. The first part of the oral dissertation defense is open to the public while the second part of the dissertation defense involves specific evaluation and discussion with the student's Doctoral Committee.

2.2.6.6 Award of Degree

The degree is awarded jointly by the Trustees of the California State University and the Regents of the University of California.

2.3 Key Contact Information

Dr. John Abraham, Chair of Department, E-326B, 619-594-2450, jabraham@mail.sdsu.edu

Dr. Eugene Olevsky, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, College of Engineering, and Director of the JDP, E-203A, 619-594-6061, eolevsky@mail.sdsu.edu

Dr. Fletcher Miller, Graduate Advisor of the MSME and BSME/MSME (4+1) program, E-323J, 619-594-5791, fmiller@mail.sdsu.edu

Dr. Samuel Kassegne, Graduate Advisor of the MSBE and BSME/MSBE (4+1) program, PS-127, 619-594-1815, kassegne@mail.sdsu.edu

Julia Smitherman, Department Coordinator, E- 326A 619-594-6067, jsmitherman@sdsu.edu

Donovan Geiger, JDP Program Manager at SDSU, E-200A, 619-594-6079, dgeiger@mail.sdsu.edu

Departmental website: mechanical.sdsu.edu/mechanical/

Division of Graduate Studies website: http://aztecgrad.sdsu.edu/gra/Default.aspx
3. Faculty Advisors and their Research Areas

JOHN ABRAHAM, Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Princeton University.

Research Interests
Dr. Abraham’s research interests are in the areas of multiphase flows, sprays, combustion, internal combustion engines, fuel chemistry, computational fluid dynamics, and high performance computing.

KAVEH AKBARI HAMED, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Sharif University of Technology.

Research Interests
His research interests span control theory, robotics, legged locomotion, hybrid dynamical systems and optimization. He develops nonlinear feedback control solutions for dynamical models ranging from robotic systems to power systems.

ASFAW BEYENE, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Director of Industrial Assessment Center. Ph.D., Warsaw University of Technology.

Research Interests
Dr. Beyene’s research has been concerned with energy systems: renewables, efficient power sources with emphasis on combined heat and power applications, cycle and energy analyses, mathematical modeling, and simulation.

SUBRATA BHATTACHARJEE, Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Washington State University.

Research Interests
Dr. Bhattacharjee’s research is on microgravity combustion and radiation heat transfer, flame dynamics in the space environment, fire detection, infra-red pyrometry, knowledge-based distributed intelligence, and development of the software TEST, The Expert System for Thermodynamics.

JOAQUIN CAMACHO, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D. University of Southern California

Research Interests
Dr. Camacho research interests spans from Multiphase flows, Sustainable Energy, Nanomaterial Theory and Fabrication, Combustion, Aerosol dynamics, and Carbon Materials.

SAMUEL K. KASSEGNE, Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Director of Bioengineering Program

Research Interests
Dr. Kassegne’s research interests are in the areas of MEMS, biotechnology, and computational sciences. He is particularly interested in developing novel applications of microfluidic and microarray technology (e.g. in molecular diagnostics), and a multi-scale hybrid algorithms for transport of charged species in micro-devices.
PARAG KATIRA, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., University of Florida.

Research Interests
Dr. Katira’s research interests lie in using mathematical modeling techniques to study the dynamics of active matter such as cells, tissues, bacterial biofilms and synthetic molecular-motor assemblies as well as the design of synthetic materials that can mimic the self-regulating and self-organizing properties of cells and tissues.

RONALD KLINE, Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University.

Research Interests
Dr. Kline’s research interests include wave propagation in anisotropic media, nondestructive evaluation, acoustic topography and non-intrusive inspection applications to homeland security.

KAREN MAY-NEWMAN, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego.

Research Interests
Dr. May-Newman’s research is in the area of Cardiovascular Biomechanics with a focus on the mechanical interaction of the cardiovascular system with implanted medical devices, such as heart valves and left ventricular assist devices (LVADs).

MORTEZA MONTE MEHRABADI, Dean, College of Engineering, Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Tulane University.

Research Interests
Dr. Mehrabadi’s research interests are in the field of analytical and computational modeling of the behavior of materials, in particular, the consideration of microstructure in modeling the anisotropic behavior of bulk materials and biological tissues.

FLETCHER J. MILLER, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., University of California Berkeley. MSME Advisor

Research Interests
Dr. Miller’s interests are in the field of thermal sciences, in particular, in microgravity combustion and sustainable energy fields. He is especially interested in developing solar thermal applications in the southwest and California.

KEE S. MOON, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Chicago.

Research Interests
Dr. Moon’s research interests are in the field of micro- and nano-fabrication technologies. In particular, he has recently developed various smart sensor/actuator systems including custom designed MEMS-gas and pressure sensors, nano-indentation systems, as well as precision instrumentation and testing devices.
KHALED MORSI, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Director, Advanced Materials Processing Laboratory. Ph.D., University of Oxford, UK.

Research Interests
Dr. Morsi's research area is processing and properties of metals, intermetallics, ceramics and their composites. His current activities include synthesis of carbon nanotubes, nanotube reinforced aluminum composites, lightweight in-situ dual matrix composites, and processing-microstructure-properties relations.

PEIMAN NASERADINMOUSAVI, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Ph.D., Villanova University, PA.

Research Interests
His research interests include smart valves, nonlinear dynamics, control theory, optimization, magnetic bearings, and mathematical modeling. The results of his research can be used for achieving optimal and stable operation of electromechanical valve systems.

EUGENE OLEVSKY, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, Director of the Joint Doctoral Program, College of Engineering. Ph.D., Ukraine National Academy of Sciences.

Research Interests
Dr. Olevsky’s research encompasses materials science and mechanics applied to processing of powders and porous materials, metals, ceramics, glass, and polymer composites, including nano-materials. His current interests include materials for solid-oxide fuel cells, thermal management of electronic circuitry, hydrogen storage, and solar cells.

WENWU XU, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., Beijing University of Technology

Research Interests
Dr. Xu’s research interests include computational Multiscale Modeling of Materials (continuum, microscopic, atomistic, and quantum mechanics) and characterization of material microstructure at multiple scales from 2D (electron microscopy) to 3D (synchrotron X-ray computed tomography), and 4D (time-resolved tomography).

GEORGE YOUSSEF, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

Research Interests
Dr. Youssef’s research concerns the experimental mechanics of nontraditional materials, which include polymers, composites and smart materials. He currently leads research on the application of composite materials in bioengineering, integration of smart materials in roughness control, and effect of environmental conditions on mechanical performance of protective polymeric coating.
4. Major Research Areas in the Department

Bioengineering

- Biomaterials (Drs. Katira, May-Newman, Morsi, Youssef)
- Biomechanics (Drs. Katira, May-Newman, Youssef)
- Design of Medical Devices (Dr. May-Newman)
- Neural Engineering (Drs. Kassegne, May-Newman, Moon)
- Sensors, Smart Health (Dr. Kassegne, Moon)
- Tissue Engineering (Dr. Katira)
- Computational Biomechanics/Biofluids (Drs. Katira, May-Newman)

Energy and Thermofluids

- Combustion (Drs. Abraham, Bhattacharjee, Camacho, Miller)
- Computational Methods (Drs. Abraham, Bhattacharjee, Miller)
- Energy Systems (Drs. Beyene, Miller)
- Renewable Energy (Drs. Abraham, Beyene, Miller)
- Multiphase Flows (Dr. Abraham)

Particulate Materials Science and Processing

- Materials Processing (Drs. Camacho, Morsi, Olevsky)
- Mechanics of Sintering (Dr. Olevsky)
- Multiscale Modeling of Materials (Dr. Xu)
- Powder Metallurgy (Drs. Morsi, Olevsky)

Mechanics

- Computational Mechanics (Dr. Kassegne, Katira, May-Newman, Youssef)

Microelectromechanical and Nanoelectromechanical Systems (MEMS/NEMS)

- Bio-Nanoelectronics (Dr. Kassegne)
- Computational MEMS (Dr. Kassegne)
- Micro and Nano Fabrication (Dr. Kassegne)
- Microfluids (Dr. Kassegne)
- Nano Mechatronics (Dr. Moon)
- Polymer Solar Cells (Dr. Kassegne)
- Sensors (Drs. Kassegne, Moon)

Robotics, Dynamic Systems and Control, Mechatronics

- Dynamic Systems and Control (Dr. Naseradinmousavi)
- Control Theory (Dr. Akbari Hamed)
- Mechatronics (Drs. Akbari Hamed, Naseradinmousavi)
- Smart Valves (Dr. Naseradinmousavi)
5. Graduate Admission

Detailed information about admission to each of the graduate programs is given on various websites. The links are given below:

5.1 B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering (4+1 Program)
Information: http://mechanical.sdsu.edu/mechanical/bs_ms_program.aspx
The application form is posted at the website.

5.2 B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S. in Bioengineering (4+1 Program)
Information: http://mechanical.sdsu.edu/mechanical/bs_ms_program.aspx
The application form is posted at the website.

5.3 Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering (ME)
Information: https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/mechanical/meng_degree.aspx
Application: http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html

5.4 Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME)
Information: https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/mechanical/me_masters_degree.aspx
Application: http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html

5.5 Master of Science in Bioengineering (MSBE)
Information: https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/mechanical/mebio_masters_degree.aspx
Application: http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html

5.6 Joint Doctoral Program (PhD)
Information: https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/engineering/joint_doctoral_program.aspx
Application: http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html
6. Financial Support

6.1 Graduate Research Assistantships
The primary means of support for graduate students is through graduate research assistantships offered through grants that faculty members have from industry and federal agencies. You have to contact individual faculty members in the areas of your interest to check on availability of such funds.

6.2 Graduate Teaching Assistantships
There are only limited opportunities for teaching assistantships in the department. You have to contact the department Chair to check on availability.

6.3 Graders
Graders are hired by course Instructors to assist in grading. This is an opportunity for graduate students to get partial support to support their education. This should not, however, be considered as a primary means of support. The pay in Spring 2017 was $12.50/hour and graduate students who were hired were usually hired for about 10 hours/week.

6.4 Departmental Scholarships
The department has a few targeted scholarships that are available for outstanding students. These should be considered as supplemental funds. They pay $1000 - $5000 per year.

6.5 University Scholarships
San Diego State University awards scholarships to students to foster academic excellence, to develop talents, and to recognize leadership, community involvement, and outstanding achievement. Scholarships are also awarded to students who have overcome significant challenges to obtain an education and to provide financial support to students for academic related activities, such as conference attendance and study abroad.

All students, regardless of nationality, citizenship, residency status, area of study, or grade point average are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

Navigate to the SDSU Financial Aid Homepage (http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/financialaid/) for more information about scholarships, tuition, and payment and filing deadlines.
Office: SSW 3605
Phone: (619) 594-6323

Students should submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after January 1 as possible for the following fall semester. File your FAFSA online (https://fafsa.ed.gov/).

The main SDSU scholarship application filing period is November through early February for awards paid in the following academic year. A second filing period extends from early March through April. Applications accepted August through October offer awards paid in the current academic year.
6.6 Graduate Equity Fellowship

The Graduate Equity Fellowship program provides support for economically disadvantaged graduate students, especially from groups who are underrepresented within their respective disciplines. Only legal residents of the State of California who can demonstrate significant financial need of $1,000, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) are eligible. Recipients must be classified or conditionally classified graduate students, maintain a 3.00 GPA, and must be enrolled for a minimum of six units of graduate coursework each semester they hold the fellowship.

Fellowships range from $500 to $2,000 for an academic year depending on the demonstrated need. Students may receive awards for a maximum of two academic years, but they must apply each year. Postbaccalaureate students are ineligible.

Interested students should complete an application, obtained in the Graduate Division office (SSE 1410), and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, obtained in the Financial Aid office.

6.7 CSU Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program (C-DIP)

The Engineering Joint Doctoral Program endeavors to provide adequate support for all students so that full time can be devoted to research and graduate level study. All students are also expected to obtain teaching experience which will be carried out under the supervision of faculty members participating in the program. The CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (C-DIP) provides student loans to doctoral students who show promise of teaching within the CSU system, as well as loan forgiveness to those who obtain a CSU instructional position.

The Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive loan is $10,000 per year for three years and forgivable for those with full- or part-time teaching appointments at a CSU campus. Recipients must be CSU employees in order to receive loan forgiveness. Being awarded the CDI loan is not a guarantee of employment at the CSU.

Established in 1987, the CSU CDIP is the largest program of its kind in the United States. As of June 2014, the program has loaned $46 million to 2,006 doctoral students enrolled in universities throughout the nation, and 1,205 of these participants have successfully earned doctoral degrees. Among participants who have earned their doctoral degrees, 600 (50 percent) have subsequently obtained employment in CSU instructional faculty positions.

Who Can Apply for C-DIP:

- Anyone interested in doctoral study, including lecturers without terminal degrees, current MA and MFA students, and undergraduate seniors may apply for C-DIP.
- The program is open to applicants who will be new or continuing full-time students in doctoral programs at regionally accredited universities anywhere within the United States.
- Applicants are not required to have attended the CSU nor to have been accepted in a doctoral program at the time of their application.
- Each applicant is required to have a full-time tenure/tenure-track CSU faculty advisor who will provide professional mentoring and networking opportunities throughout the student’s educational experience.

For more information, visit [http://www.calstate.edu/hr/cdip/](http://www.calstate.edu/hr/cdip/).
6.8 Fee Assistance Program
For most students pursuing the Ph.D. degree, the University has some funds available to offset in whole or in part the cost of the state-mandated registration fees. Currently, these fees approximate $600 each semester for students enrolled in six units or less and about $900 for students enrolled in more than six units. Awardees must be participating in the graduate teaching program of the University. Information regarding this support is available from the director of the doctoral programs.

6.9 Graduate Student Travel Fund
The Graduate Student Travel Fund (GSTF) supports travel associated with scholarly research and creative activities. Funding for the GSTF has been generously provided by the Financial Affairs Committee of the Associated Students. For more information please refer to the SDSU Division of Research Affairs website (https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/researchaffairs/gstf.aspx).

7. Registration Guidelines
7.1 Online Registration
San Diego State University students register online at SDSU WebPortal http://www.sdsu.edu/portal. On campus registration is not conducted. The Class Schedule is available at http://www.sdsu.edu/schedule and contains specific information on registration, the courses offered for the term, and a listing of the fees required for enrollment. Students will not be permitted to register until fees are paid. Payment of fees by itself does not constitute registration. A student is considered registered when: 1) fees have been paid, and 2) at least one course has been added prior to the first day of classes.

7.2 Late Registration
Late registration is allowed during the schedule adjustment period each semester. Students wishing to register late must pay registration fees plus a $25.00 late fee by 3:30 p.m. on the 10th day from the first day of classes. After receiving an add code from the instructor of the course the student wants to add, the student must access the SDSU WebPortal to officially register. The last day to add/drop classes is by 11:59 p.m. on the 10th day from the first day of classes.
8. International Students
San Diego State University offers opportunities for graduate study to international students whose academic preparation meets the standards for admission. International applicants include those who hold U.S. temporary visas as students, exchange visitors, or in other non-immigrant classifications. SDSU uses separate requirements in the admission of international students. Verification of English proficiency (see section on English Language Requirement for undergraduate applicants), financial resources, and academic performance are important considerations for admission.

8.1 International Graduate Admissions
International students who plan to attend SDSU on an F-1 student visa and have course work completed at schools outside the U.S. should complete the CSUMentor international application (http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/international/) to apply for admission. To learn more about the application process, please visit the International Graduate Admissions website: http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/international/grad/index.html

You may also contact International Admissions at:
International Admissions
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7455
(619) 594-6336
intladmission@sdsu.edu

8.2 Admission Requirements
Applicants for any type of graduate or post-baccalaureate study at San Diego State University must:
(a) hold an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution or one approved by a department and/or ministry of education in the host country; or have completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by the graduate dean
(b) have attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0
(c) have been in good standing at all universities attended
(d) have satisfactory scores on all sections of the GRE or GMAT and TOEFL/IELTS if required.

Applicants who do not qualify for admission under provisions (a) and (b) may be admitted by special action if the graduate dean determines that there is other academic or professional evidence sufficient to warrant such action.
8.2.1 Foreign Language Requirement

Departments requiring students to pass a foreign language examination may direct a student to complete one of the following options, or a combination thereof:

1. A departmental examination administered either by the department or by the appropriate foreign language department
2. The appropriate part or parts of the MLA-cooperative Foreign language Test
3. The Graduate School Foreign Language Test (GSFLT)
4. Or satisfactory completion of certain foreign language courses.

The foreign language requirement must be fulfilled prior to advancement and graduation. The graduate advisor must submit notification of completion of the Foreign Language Requirement to the appropriate evaluator in the Graduate Division.

8.2.2 Insurance Requirement

As a condition of receiving an I-20 or DS2019 form, all F-1 and J-1 visa applicants must agree to obtain and maintain health insurance as a condition of registration and continued enrollment. Such insurance must be in amounts as specified by the United States Information Agency (USIA) and National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA). The campus president or designee shall determine which insurance policies meet these criteria. Further information may be obtained from the International Student Center or go to http://www.sdsu.edu/international.

8.3 American Language Institute (ALI)

If English instruction is needed prior to admission to SDSU, students may enroll in the American Language Institute (http://ali.sdsu.edu/). The ALI offers academic preparation in English language reading, writing, and listening skills necessary for university success.

8.4 Housing and Scholarship

Arrangements for housing should be completed well in advance of the student’s arrival to campus. Detailed information regarding housing may be obtained from the Office of Housing Administration website at http://www.sdsu.edu/housing. Scholarship aid for entering foreign students is limited. All admitted foreign students will be required to provide evidence of funding for a minimum of one academic year. Upon arrival at SDSU, the student should contact the International Student Center.

8.5 Current International Students

The International Student Center (ISC) currently serves enrolled international students. They can help you with advising, immigration questions, adjusting to life in the United States, and much more. To learn more about the services the ISC offers please visit: http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/isc/

You may also contact the ISC at:

International Student Center
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7455
(619) 594-1982
isc.reception@sdsu.edu
9. Forms and Policies

9.1 Advancement to Candidacy

The Graduate Division will generate the Advancement to Candidacy and send it to the Graduate Adviser for approval after the student's Official Program of Study has been processed and approved.

The Advancement to Candidacy must be signed by the Graduate Advisor and returned to the Graduate Division. If a student is not eligible for Advancement to Candidacy after the Official Program of Study is approved due to the lack of units, unsatisfactory GPA, an unfulfilled foreign language requirement, or unfulfilled deficiencies, the student's file will be reviewed for Advancement to Candidacy by the Graduate Division at the end of each semester.

For most majors, a student is eligible for Advancement to Candidacy after having completed at least 12 semester units of the Official Program with a GPA of 3.0 or better. In addition, the student must have completed all the undergraduate deficiencies and the special requirements of the department or school concerned; have passed the foreign language examination if required; been recommended for Advancement of Candidacy by the department; and approved for Advancement to Candidacy by the Graduate Council.

*NOTE: A student may not receive an Appointment of Thesis/Project Committee Form, enroll in Thesis 799A, or take a final departmental examination (including a thesis defense) until s/he is Advanced to Candidacy.*

9.2 Request to Change Degree/Major Objective between Departments

The Request to Change Degree/Major Objective between Departments Form ([http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/files/05978-Request_to_Change_Degree-Master_Obj_between_Depts.pdf](http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/files/05978-Request_to_Change_Degree-Master_Obj_between_Depts.pdf)) is initiated by the student when declaring or changing a major for an advanced degree.

This form should be completed and submitted to the Graduate Division for verification of the student's records; completion of the GRE (or GMAT for the College of Business), transcripts from all colleges and an updated SDSU record, and a GPA of 2.85 or higher in the last 60 units.

After a decision has been made, the form must be returned to the [Graduate Division](http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/files/05978-Request_to_Change_Degree-Master_Obj_between_Depts.pdf) for processing.

9.3 Request to Change Concentration/Specialization

This form is used when a student wishes to change their degree, major, concentration or specialization without changing department. However, if the change in degree objective results in the student working with a new graduate adviser, the student will need to submit a Request to Change Concentration/Specialization within Department Form ([http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/files/05977-Request_to_Change_Concentration-Specialization.pdf](http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/files/05977-Request_to_Change_Concentration-Specialization.pdf)).

9.4 Change of Status

If a student is admitted to a graduate program on a conditional basis, the student must meet the conditions by the deadline stated on the departmental recommendation s/he receives when s/he is admitted to SDSU. After the student has completed the conditions, s/he must contact the Graduate Advisor and request that a Change of Status is sent to the Graduate Division to become classified.
Change of Status

(TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Last Name  First Name
Street Address  Apt/#
City  State  Zip Code

RED ID

Degree (e.g., MA, MS, MBA)

Major (and concentration/specialization if applicable)

Your official status at the university has been changed as indicated below. If this information is in error, please contact the Graduate Division or call (619) 594-5213.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS (Minimum required GPA for classification is 2.85)
Check One

☐ The above conditionally classified student has satisfactorily completed the conditions stated at the time of admission and is recommended for graduate standing (classified).

☐ The above conditionally classified student has not satisfactorily completed the conditions stated at the time of admission and is recommended for continuance with this status. The revised conditions and deadline for completion are:

__________________________________________________________________________

If the revised deadline exceeds a year from admission to the university, please provide a justification:

__________________________________________________________________________

☐ The above student has not satisfactorily completed the conditions stated at the time of admission and is recommended for dismissal from this advanced degree program.

__________________________________________________________________________

Graduate Adviser Signature  Date

DIVISION OF GRADUATE AFFAIRS

The status of the above conditionally classified student is now:

☐ Classified

☐ Conditionally Classified/Extended Deadline: __________

☐ Scholastically Disqualified (See the Graduate Bulletin for policies governing scholastic disqualification)

☐ Other: __________

Effective Date  Graduate Dean/Designee Signature  Date

Protected Level 2 Document – If found, please return form to the Division of Graduate Affairs

CHECK YOUR WEBPORTAL FOR UPDATES TO YOUR STUDENT RECORDS
9.5 Enrolling in Thesis

Students who wish to enroll in Thesis 799A must first have an approved Thesis Committee Form on file with the Graduate Division. Once this form is processed and approved, students may request a schedule number and an add code from the Graduate Division in order to enroll in Thesis 799A. Students requiring additional time to finish their theses must enroll in 799B Thesis Extension, either through main campus or through the College of Extended Studies. Please refer to Part Four of the Graduate Bulletin for more information on thesis and thesis extension courses.

9.6 Comprehensive Departmental Examination or Defense of Thesis

If the student is completing a Final Comprehensive Departmental Exam rather than a thesis, notification to the Graduate Division that the student has passed the exam is required. Some departments require notification of the thesis defense.

The department must notify the Graduate Division of the thesis defense or final/comprehensive departmental exam by submitting the Report for Final Exam or Thesis Defense form by the appropriate deadline. Officially, a student may not sit for an exam without first being Advanced to Candidacy.

9.7 Request for Letter of Completion

A letter verifying completion of degree requirements may be requested ONLY if the following applies:

The student has missed the application for graduation with an advanced degree deadline, yet has completed all degree requirements. If the student has completed a thesis, the Montezuma Publishing division of Aztec Shops must have provided notification to the Graduate Division that the thesis was turned in and payment was made for binding before a letter of verification may be written. If the student has completed a final/comprehensive departmental examination, the student's department must provide notification to the Graduate Division.

*Note: This is a standard letter and no special exceptions of the wording may be requested.*
# Request for Letter of Completion

The Letter of Completion is provided as a courtesy, and only for graduate students who 1) have applied for graduation, 2) have no outstanding grades, and 3) have completed all degree requirements (no required courses are in progress).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY</th>
<th>XXX-XX-</th>
<th>Last 4 digits of SSN</th>
<th>RED ID</th>
<th>Graduating term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree (e.g., MA, MS, MBA)</td>
<td>Major (and concentration/specialization, if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Street Address</td>
<td>Apt. #</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 7-10 business days are required to complete the letter.
- The Letter of Completion is not official proof of the degree, will not carry the official seal of San Diego State University, and is not notarized.
- The Letter of Completion cannot be provided once finals begin.
- The Letter of Completion has standardized language that cannot be altered under any circumstances:
  
  [Student] has completed all academic requirements for the [Degree] at San Diego State University. Upon formal faculty approval and review of academic requirements at the end of the term, the degree will be awarded on [Date].

I have read and understand the above policies. I understand that the content of the letter cannot be changed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

☐ Mail the letter to me. ☐ Email a scanned copy to me. ☐ I will pick up the letter in person.

☐ Mail or ☐ email the letter to: ____________________________________________________________________________

Up to 3 copies can be mailed by Graduate Affairs.

---

**DIVISION OF GRADUATE AFFAIRS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation application on file for (date)</th>
<th>Thesis clearance (date)</th>
<th>Final exam completed on (date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other outstanding requirements:

Remarks:

________________________________________________________________________

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9.8 Thesis Committee Form

Students are only able to obtain and officially file an Appointment of Thesis Committee/Project Form, listing the names of people who will serve on the thesis committee, after they have been Advanced to Candidacy. This is a restricted form and may be mailed upon request or picked up by students in the Graduate Division. This form must be approved by the Graduate Division before students will be allowed to enroll in Thesis 799A.

9.9 Foreign Language Requirement Form

![](image)

Your official program for the master’s degree requires the demonstration of a reading knowledge of a foreign language or equivalent. Please present this form to your graduate advisor who will designate a member of the faculty to conduct an examination or determine proficiency.

If you will be fulfilling the Foreign Language Requirement by completing a departmental exam, or the appropriate parts of the MLA test, ask your graduate advisor to designate an examiner and complete Section I below. Present this form to the examiner and arrange to have the test administered. The examiner will conduct the examination, complete Section II of this form, and submit it to the Graduate Division.

If you are fulfilling the Foreign Language Requirement by satisfactorily completing course work or if you have earned a degree from a university where English is not the principle language of instruction, ask your graduate advisor to complete Section III. All other forms of satisfactory completion of the Foreign Language Requirement require the submission and approval of a Petition for Adjustment of Academic Requirement.

SECTION I  The following named professor will conduct the reading knowledge examination as required:

Professor

Department of Examiner

Student’s Degree and Major

Graduate Advisor Signature

Date

SECTION II  This is to certify that I conducted the reading knowledge examination as required above.

Language

Date Student PASSED Examination

Signature of Examiner

Date

SECTION III  This is to certify that the above named student has satisfactorily completed the reading knowledge of a foreign language required for the master’s degree by the following demonstration:

Course work completed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix and Number</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Institution Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English as a Second Language Student</td>
<td>Country/Degree Awarded</td>
<td>Date Awarded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Advisor Signature

Date

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10. Campus Resources

SDSU Academic Calendar [http://curriculum.sdsu.edu/catalog/2017-2018/GeneralCatalog/001_AcademicCalendar.pdf](http://curriculum.sdsu.edu/catalog/2017-2018/GeneralCatalog/001_AcademicCalendar.pdf)

SDSU Division of Graduate Affairs [http://aztecgrad.sdsu.edu/gra/Default.aspx](http://aztecgrad.sdsu.edu/gra/Default.aspx)

SDSU Division of Research Affairs [https://go.sdsu.edu/researchaffairs/](https://go.sdsu.edu/researchaffairs/)


SDSU International Graduate Admissions website: [http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/international/grad/index.html](http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/international/grad/index.html)

11. Frequently Asked Questions

What's the most important thing a graduate student can do to be successful?
READ! Read about being a graduate student. Particularly, read Part Three and Four of the Graduate Bulletin. These pages inform you about fees, admissions, residency, regulations and the requirements for doctoral and masters degrees. Refer to the Graduate Bulletin often. The Graduate Bulletin is available in the Aztec Bookstore and on line at http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/bulletin/. Communicating with your program adviser or director will be important to your success as well.

What is a Red ID Number?
The Red ID Number (a 9-digit number, beginning with the number "8," shown on your admission letter) is the reference number used to identify you and your student record. If you do not have this number, or have misplaced it, contact the Registrar's Office at http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/registrar/ (619-594-6871). You will also need to pick up your ID card as well. Please see the Card Office website (http://sdsucard.sdsu.edu) for more information.

What is Classified Admission?
Students admitted with classified standing have met all university and department requirements for admission. Classified students are fully eligible to proceed with courses for their graduate program of study, and should not be required to take any prerequisites or meet any additional requirements beyond those listed in the Graduate Bulletin for all students.

What if I have been admitted conditionally?
Students admitted conditionally have not met all university or department requirements for admission. Conditionally admitted students are typically required to take prerequisite courses or maintain a minimum GPA during their first several semesters of attendance. The specific conditions, and the allotted time period for completing them, are set by the student's department. If you have been admitted conditionally, please contact your graduate advisor for specific information regarding your conditions.

When the conditions of admission have been met, how do I request classified standing
Adequate completion of a student's conditions is determined by the department. If you believe that you have satisfied your conditions, or would like to request more time to meet them, download the Change of Status form at http://newcenter.sdsu.edu/gra/images/change_of_status.pdf. Once this form has been signed by the Graduate Advisor, it should be returned to GRA for final evaluation.

How do I register for classes?
Registration for classes is completed online through Web Portal. However, prior to registration, required fees must be paid. Payment may be made either (1) by check made payable to SDSU; (2) online (http://www.sdsu.edu/sfs) using personal checking account information or with a credit card through CASHNET SmartPay (http://commerce.cashnet.com/sdsu_sp). Once fees are paid, you may access registration through your Web Portal account.
What is a Program of Study (POS)?

The Program of Study (POS) is a contract between the student, the department, and the university. The POS consists of the complete list of courses a student will take in order to satisfy the requirements for the degree. It includes both required coursework and electives. The POS can only be submitted by students with classified graduate standing. The graduate advisor and student consult about the Program of Study. Once an agreement is reached, the advisor submits the POS to the Graduate Division electronically for review. If the POS meets all university requirements it is given final approval by the Graduate Dean and becomes binding.

How do I change my Program of Study (POS) once it has been approved?

If you wish to alter an approved POS, a Petition for Adjustment of Academic Requirements (http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/images/petition_for_adjust_of_acad_require.pdf) must be supported by the graduate advisor and approved by the GRA. You must complete the Petition, obtain the signature of the graduate advisor, and submit the Petition to the GRA. When approved, a copy will be mailed to you.

How many units of transfer, extension, or foreign university credit may be used on a Program of Study (POS)?

In most graduate programs the maximum transfer credit allowed is 9 units. This includes coursework taken through the SDSU College of Extended Studies. (Refer to page 36 of the 2007-2008 Graduate Bulletin for specific exceptions.) All transfer credit must have been taken at an appropriately accredited university, and approved by the graduate advisor and the Graduate Dean.

What does it mean to be Advanced to Candidacy?

A student who has been advanced to candidacy has been officially recognized by the university as a candidate for the degree. In order to be advanced to candidacy a student must have an approved Program of Study (POS) on file, completed a minimum number of POS units, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Students are typically nominated for advancement by their department, and reviewed for advancement by the GRA at the time the POS is submitted. If approved for advancement to candidacy, the student becomes eligible to file the Appointment of Thesis/Project Committee form in preparation for enrollment in thesis (Plan A), or to sit for the comprehensive examination (Plan B). For a list of advancement requirements, and for exceptions to the rules listed above, please refer to the Graduate Bulletin.

How soon should I think about my thesis?

It is never too early to start thinking about the thesis. Preparing a dissertation or thesis (from the proposal development stage to the final manuscript) requires advance planning. Purchase and read the SDSU Dissertation & Thesis Manual (available from the Aztec Bookstore) as soon as possible. As you progress through the Program of Study, a topic of interest will develop. Seek out the advice and counsel of faculty members within your academic department and determine their willingness to chair your thesis committee. Two additional members (one within your department, one from outside your department) must also be secured in order to complete the thesis committee. If the research involves human or animal subjects, prior approval must be obtained from the appropriate university office, i.e., the Institutional Review Board or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Once a student has been advanced to candidacy, the Appointment of Thesis/Project Committee paperwork may be filed, and the final step in the culminating experience (writing and publication of the thesis) can officially begin.
12. List of Graduate Courses

12.1 Courses Acceptable on Master’s Degree Program in Mechanical Engineering.

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

12.2 Upper Division Courses

Note: Proof of Completion of prerequisites required for all Mechanical Engineering 300-, 400-, and 500- level courses: Copy of transcript.

M E 520: Introduction to Mechanical Vibrations (3)

Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 304 (or Civil Engineering 301) and Mechanical Engineering 330. Analysis of mechanical vibration; single- and multi-degree of freedom systems; free and forced vibrations; vibration isolation; vibration absorbers. Theory of vibration measuring instruments.

M E 530: Automatic Control Systems (3)

Prerequisite: Mechanical Engineering 330. Dynamic characteristics of control components and systems. Stability and response of closed loop systems. Design of control systems.

M E 535: Mechanics of Composite Structures (3) (Same course as Aerospace Engineering 535)

Prerequisites: Aerospace Engineering 280 and Aerospace Engineering 310 or Mechanical Engineering 314. Micro- and macro-mechanics of composite materials, classical lamination theory, initial failure prediction and progressive failure analysis of laminates, analysis of beam and plate structures, stiffness and strength based design of composites. Not open to students with credit in Mechanical Engineering 540.

M E 540: Nonmetallic Materials (3)


M E 543: Powder-Based Manufacturing (3)

Prerequisite: Mechanical Engineering 240. Manufacturing of micro and nano-structured engineering components and composites starting with metal and/or ceramic powders. Powder production methods, characterization, powder shaping and compaction, sintering, hot consolidation, design considerations, and finishing operations.

M E 552: Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (3)

M E 555: Energy and Thermal Systems Analysis and Design (3)

Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 351 and 452. Analysis, design, and optimization of thermal systems using microcomputers. Modeling of thermal systems and components. Thermal system component characteristics and their effect on overall system performance. Relationship among thermal sciences in design process. Introduction to thermoeconomic optimization.

M E 556: Solar Energy Conversion (3)

Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 351, 452, and Aerospace Engineering 340. Application of thermodynamics, fluid mechanics and heat transfer to the thermal design of solar energy conversion systems. Computer simulations utilized.

M E 580: Biomechanics (3)

Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 304 (or Civil Engineering 301) and Aerospace Engineering 340. Application of engineering methodologies for quantitative understanding of biological/physiological phenomena. Continuum mechanics principles. Cardiovascular system and its components viewed from a mechanistic standpoint. Mechanical Engineering In the College of Engineering 244 SDSU GRADUATE BULLETIN 2017-2018 Mechanical Engineering


One lecture and four hours of laboratory.


M E 596: Advanced Mechanical Engineering Topics (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Modern developments in mechanical engineering. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit of nine units for any combination of Mechanical Engineering 496, 499 and 596 applicable to a bachelor’s degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

12.3 Graduate Courses

M E 610: Finite Element Methods in Mechanical Engineering (3)

Prerequisites: Aerospace Engineering 280 with a grade of C or better. Development of finite elements and an introduction to solution methods. Problems from various fields of study in mechanical engineering such as stress analysis, vibrations and heat transfer. Introduction to finite element programs such as NASTRAN.
M E 640: Nanomaterials (3)
Prerequisite: Mechanical Engineering 543. Nanomaterials compared with conventional materials. Nanomaterials synthesis, characterization, properties, and applications.

M E 645: Mechanical Behavior of Engineering Materials (3)

M E 646: Mechanics of Sintering (3)
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing. Practical aspects and conceptual models and mechanisms associated with sintering of ceramic and metal powders.

M E 651: Advanced Thermodynamics (3)
Prerequisites: Aerospace Engineering 280 with a grade of C or better and Mechanical Engineering 351. Advanced concepts of macroscopic thermodynamics are developed including entropy generation, irreversibility, effectiveness, exergy, and chemical exergy of fuels. Concepts applied to power and refrigeration cycles using computer software.

M E 653: Combustion (3)

M E 657: Convection Heat Transfer (3)
Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 452 and Aerospace Engineering 515. Convection heat transfer processes under laminar and turbulent conditions. Mass transfer. Scaling arguments, analytical and numerical modeling.

M E 658: Radiation Heat Transfer (3)

M E 661: Gas Dynamics (3)
Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 351 and Aerospace Engineering 515. Thermodynamics of high velocity compressible fluid flow. Adiabatic and diabatic flow; shock phenomena; imperfect gases; multidimensional flow. Applications to the propulsive duct and turbomachinery.
**M E 681: Biomaterials (3)**


**M E 683: Design of Medical Devices (3)**

Prerequisites: Mechanical Engineering 314 and 580. Device design, including biomaterials, human factors engineering, reliability, and manufacturing. Topics relevant to industry reviewed include regulatory, documentation, quality, and legal.

**M E 685: Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) Design and Applications (3)**

(Same course as Electrical Engineering 685) Prerequisite: Mechanical Engineering 585. Design and manufacturing technology for micro- and nano-scale devices. Topics include solid state transducers, microscale physics, biomedical microelectronics, microfluidics, biosensors, and hybrid integration of microfabrication technology. Emphasis on biomedical applications.

**M E 696: Advanced Topics in Mechanical Engineering (2 or 3)**

Intensive study in specific areas of mechanical engineering. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

**M E 797: Research (1-3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: Consent of graduate adviser and advancement to candidacy. Research in engineering. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree. M E 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP Prerequisite: Consent of graduate adviser; to be arranged with department chair and instructor. Individual study or internship. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master’s degree.

**M E 799A: Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy. Preparation of a project or thesis for the master’s degree.

**M E 799B: Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP. Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis or project is granted final approval.

**M E 799C: Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses. Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.