

UF Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering

Engineering School of
Sustainable Infrastructure
& Environment



GRADUATE HANDBOOK

PURPOSE:

This information guide is provided to you in order to familiarize you with the procedures and forms (all posted at <https://www.essie.ufl.edu/resources/current-students/#gcc>) that will be utilized during your degree process. However, you should first refer to your college catalog and the Graduate School's policies and procedures as outlined on the www.ufl.edu website. It is extremely important that you understand these procedures and maintain the processing of the required forms in a timely manner. Also, be certain to refer to the CCE Department website at www.essie.ufl.edu under the Graduate listing for the most up-to-date information.

The Civil and Coastal Engineering Department faculty and staff are here to assist you to earn your degree and meet your future goals. It is your responsibility to adhere to any deadline dates which have been published in the University Catalog, the semester schedule of courses (found on the Office of the University Registrar's website) and the Graduate School and departmental information and forms. Also, it is necessary for you to be informed of the proper procedures, policies, rules and regulations that must be followed when moving forward with your degree requirements.

OUR MISSION AND OBJECTIVES:

The mission of the Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering (CCE) is to build upon a leading program of exceptional teaching, innovative research, and dedicated service by maintaining a strong curriculum, a highly qualified and committed faculty, outstanding facilities, and essential funding required to meet program needs. The primary objective of the Department is to provide the student with a curriculum designed to accomplish three primary purposes:

1. To provide a broad general education that enhances communication skills and encourages all-around development of students, both individually and as productive members of society,
2. To ensure a thorough preparation in the fundamentals of science and engineering, and
3. To provide a foundation to the planning, design, construction, and operation of civil engineering projects.

The program and curriculum to accomplish these objectives permit a graduate to enter practice and commence life-long learning through professional activities or graduate studies.

The secondary objective is to enhance contributions to the State, Nation, and profession through strong programs in teaching, research and service.

COMMUNICATION:

Any official communication that you receive from the University/Graduate School/College of Engineering/Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering (CCE) will come to you via your ufl.edu e-mail address. It is your responsibility to check this mail routinely for important deadlines and communications. If you chose to ignore this line of communication, it can impact you negatively in many ways including not being able to graduate.

CHAPTER 1: REGISTRATION

On- Campus students

UF COURSE SCHEDULE = <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/>

UF GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS = Please visit the UF Graduate School's website and [Graduate Catalog](#) to view the Civil and Coastal Engineering Graduate courses offered.

UF DIRECTORY = <https://directory.ufl.edu/>

Contact information for ESSIE Administrators, Faculty and Staff - <http://www.essie.ufl.edu/people/>

When you are ready to select courses – please navigate to the UF COURSE SCHEDULE to see what courses will be offered. To find out more about a specific course – you can use the UF GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS; alternatively, you can email/call the listed instructor by using the UF DIRECTORY. If you want/need advising or suggestions – feel free to inquire with individual faculty in the area of your interest or your academic advisor. Graduate level courses are always 5000

or higher. Up to 6 credits can be taken at the undergraduate level provided they are level 3000 or higher and outside of your discipline after obtaining approval from Academic Office. UG coursework MUST BE OUTSIDE OF DISCIPLINE.

On-Campus Student Registration Process

1. Discuss your degree plans with your advisor and decide on the courses you plan to take.
2. Sign-in to your ONE.UF.EDU account and follow the procedures posted for registration.
3. If you will need to enroll in any Civil or Coastal Engineering "DEPT" courses as they are listed on the "Schedule of Courses", obtain a ESSIE Graduate Course Registration Form online at <https://www.essie.ufl.edu/resources/current-students/#gcc> under CCE Graduate Program forms.

For those courses shown in the Published Schedule of Courses as "DEPT" it is necessary to get the section number from the department teaching the course. The departments use this system to control that section for a variety of reasons, i.e., classification level of students, design elective, waiting for the other section to fill up, etc. Signatures are required from the instructor of the course and the student's chair on the Graduate Course Registration Form to register for any of the courses listed below.

CGN 6905, EOC 6905, CGN 6910, EOC 6934, CGN 6940, CGN 6971, CGN 6972, CGN 6074, CGN 7979, CGN 7980, EOC 6971, EOC 6972, EOC, 7979, EOC 7980, EGN 5949

Note: In addition to the courses listed above, other departments (i.e., Building Construction, Environmental Engineering Sciences, etc.) use the controlled section DEPT. The student must obtain permission from the graduate advisor in the specific department to register for those courses.

ESSIE UFEDGE Student Registration Process

UF EDGE = <http://www.ufedge.ufl.edu/>

UF EDGE COURSE LIST = <https://ufedge.ufl.edu/students/courses/>

UF GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS = Please visit the UF Graduate School's website and [Graduate Catalog](#) to view the Civil and Coastal Engineering Graduate courses offered

UF DIRECTORY = <https://directory.ufl.edu>

When you are ready to select courses – please navigate to <https://ufedge.ufl.edu/students/courses/> to see what courses will be offered. To find out more about a specific course – you can use the UF GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS; alternatively, you can email/call the listed instructor by using the UF DIRECTORY. If you want/need advising or suggestions – feel free to inquire with [Dr. Dennis Hiltunen](#), the ESSIE EDGE program coordinator. EDGE students generally take anywhere from 3 to 9 credits per semester. Students are notified via email at the beginning of each semester with specific information regarding the EDGE program registration.

You will work with the ESSIE Graduate Academic Coordinator for ESSIE EDGE registration issues, please email EDGE inquiries to: edge@essie.ufl.edu

HOLDS: Students could have holds regarding their registration and these would be posted under the students ONE.UF.EDU account. If there are holds one should follow the instructions posted for each hold to have the hold removed. If a registration form is submitted for processing and the hold has not been removed, the staff member who processes the form cannot proceed, therefore this should be checked prior to submitting the registration form.

Full-time registration: On-campus graduate students with financial aid need to enroll in 9 credit hours in the Fall and Spring or 8 credit hours in the Summer.

Final Term Registration: During the term when the degree is awarded, a student must be registered for at least 3 credits in fall or spring and 2 credits in summer. Thesis students must enroll in CGN or EOC 6971 and doctoral students must enroll in CGN or EOC 7980. Non-thesis students must enroll in course work that counts toward the graduate degree. Students on a fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship must be registered appropriately for their appointments.

Can I be a part-time graduate student? Unless you have a specific registration requirement by the government, an external agency, the university or your academic department (such as an assistantship), you may register as a part-time student if you maintain the minimum registration requirement of three credits in fall or spring and two credits in the summer.

Graduate students on appointment: Please refer to your offer letter for details on registration requirements. You can check on this with the Payroll Contact for your Supervisory Committee Chair.

Conditional Admission: If the student received an admission letter that required specific conditions in reference to grade requirements to proceed through the program, then the student should review those stipulations each term prior to enrolling for the subsequent term. If the condition of this specific conditional admission is not met, the student will not be permitted to stay in the program.

CHAPTER 2: DEGREE GUIDELINES AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Programs are developed on an individual basis to satisfy the student's personal needs and career interests. Considerable latitude is possible in the development of outside interests to support the major area of concentration. This interest may be established in geology, mathematics and statistics, business, other branches of engineering, etc.

The *Master of Engineering (ME)* degree is for those students who have a bachelor's degree in engineering from an [ABET](#) accredited curriculum or who have taken sufficient articulation course work to meet the minimum requirements specified by ABET. The *Master of Science (MS)* degree is for those students with a non-engineering undergraduate degree interested in taking advantage of specialized advanced education in certain aspects of engineering and for those students whose engineering baccalaureate degree is not from an ABET accredited curriculum.

Master's degrees are offered with a thesis or non-thesis option. The thesis option requires a minimum of 30 semester hours including a maximum of 6 semester hours of Master's research (CGN or EOC 6971). The non-thesis option requires a minimum of 30 semester hours. For both the thesis and non-thesis options, at least 15 credits must be at the graduate level and within the Civil and Coastal Engineering Department, exclusive of CGN 6971, CGN 6974 or EOC 6971. In addition, the department highly recommends that one-third of the credits be designated as "design". This is particularly important for our international students who are not graduates of an undergraduate ABET-accredited program, and who later might seek to become registered as a Professional Engineer (PE) in the USA. Check with your advisor to determine what courses can be used to meet the design requirement.

If a student is awarded an assistantship, a non-thesis Master's degree program is not an option. The student must complete a thesis-option program.

For GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS for either the ME or MS degree, refer to the specific section within this handbook for that information.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Only graduate-level (5000-7999) work with a grade of B or better, is eligible for transfer of credit. A maximum of 15 transfer credits are allowed. These can include no more than 9 credits from institutions approved by UF, with the balance obtained from non-degree work at the University of Florida. Credits transferred from other universities are applied toward the degree requirements, but grades earned are not computed in the student's grade point average. Acceptance of transfer of credit requires approval of the student's advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School.

The responsibility rests with the student's advisor to base acceptance of graduate transfer credits on established criteria for ensuring the academic integrity of course work. No courses taken by correspondence may be used for graduate credit or to meet the registration requirements for an assistantship.

Transfer of credit for both the Master's non-thesis & thesis students is requested through submission of a completed Program plan of study found here - <https://www.essie.ufl.edu/resources/current-students/#gcc>. The program plan identifies the student's coursework to be completed throughout their entire degree plan. There is also an area on this form where the transfer of credit can be identified. Once the form is submitted to the Graduate Academic staff to be processed, the transfer of credit request will then be submitted to the Graduate School. Submission timeframes are as follows:

Master's non-thesis - midterm of the first semester

Master's thesis – midterm of the second semester

4+1: There can be no more than a two-semester gap between the conferral of the bachelor's degree and the first semester of the master's program if 4+1 credits are to be requested to be transferred. 4+1 forms completed after the conferral of the bachelor's program are not allowable. A maximum of 9 credits will be considered for a 4+1 transfer of credit request for the Civil and Coastal Engineering program.

Obtain a copy of your transcripts and discuss the transfer of credits with your advisor. After your advisor has made suggestions and completed the Program Plan of Study form, it will be processed by the Graduate Academic Staff. A student must be enrolled at UF for their final term of enrollment. If a student chose to enroll at an outside institution to transfer coursework to their degree program at UF, it must be completed prior to the final term of the degree program.

An official transcript from the other institution must be available by midterm of the semester prior to the student's final term for a transfer of credit request to be completed by the department. There will be no exceptions to this as all transfer credits must be processed and showing on the student's transcripts by the student's graduating semester.

To learn more about transfer credit requirements and restrictions, please refer to the [UF Graduate Catalog](#) under your respective degree program.

Graduate Courses Taken While a Non-degree seeking Student

A University of Florida non-degree seeking student who subsequently is admitted and enrolls in Graduate School may transfer up to 15 credit hours of 5000 or 6000 level courses taken. This is contingent upon approval of the student's advisor and that the courses meet the minimum grade requirement.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GRADUATE SCHOOL TRAVELING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

This program is designed for a student who wants to participate as a UF graduate student attending an institution of higher learning elsewhere, either within the Florida State University System or outside of the Florida State University System - but within the United States. The form to request participation in this program can be found at: <https://grad.ufl.edu/media/gradufledu/pdf/traveling.pdf>

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE INFORMATION – (Thesis students and Non-thesis seeking a minor only)

NOTE: If a student is pursuing a **non-thesis** based degree no supervisory committee is needed, however the student's advisor's name will appear in the GIMS system as their chair (and should be listed on the program plan as their chair as well). If a non-thesis student is pursuing a minor see below.

Membership/Appointment

Supervisory committees for graduate degree programs are nominated by the respective department chair, approved by the college dean and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The Dean of the Graduate School is an ex-officio member of all supervisory committees. Only those members of the faculty who have been appointed to the graduate faculty may serve as members of a supervisory committee unless a special appointment is completed and approved. For those students seeking a thesis-based degree, the committee must consist of a chair (from the student's home department – typically the advisor) and another graduate faculty member. However, if the student elects to pursue a minor toward a non-thesis degree, the student must submit the completed supervisory committee form with the minor representative's name from the department where the minor will be obtained. This must be completed the semester before the student intends to graduate. If two minors are designated, two representatives must be appointed to the committee. If a student

anticipates making a change in his or her graduate committee, he or she must do so no later than midterm of the final (graduating) semester. There are NO exceptions to this deadline.

Special Appointments

The student may request that an individual with special qualifications/expertise be a member of the committee. The student must complete the “Special Supervisory Committee Appointment Petition” (found on the [ESSIE website](#)) and the student’s chair must approve the form. Once the form is complete, the CCE Graduate records staff will forward the request for consideration by the Graduate School.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The Graduate School requires a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average (GPA). If your GPA falls below a 3.0, you will be placed on probation. Students will be expected to raise the GPA the following semester to a minimum of 3.0.

Any student on assistantship whose GPA falls below a 3.0 will lose the assistantship per the Graduate School.

STEPS TO FOLLOW TOWARD GRADUATION

MASTER of ENGINEERING – NON-THESIS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Complete 30 or more credit hours (as approved by advisor and/or committee)
- Minimum of 15 credits taken in major area
- Maximum of 6 credits of (3000-4000 level) courses, outside department, can be used for support courses if approved by advisor
- All work, including transfer credit, must be completed during the seven years preceding the date on which the degree is awarded
- Be certain that all transfer of credits were applied to your records if you submitted a request
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA in the major area and cumulative is needed to graduate
- The semester before graduation, the candidate should check [GIMS](#) to make sure their degree program and the Supervisory Committee information is accurate.
- Submit a degree application by the posted deadline
- Address punitive grades on the transcripts with the Graduate Academic staff
- Review your copy of the Program Plan of Study form to be certain you have met all program requirements
- Complete the [ESSIE Department Exit Survey](#) & return keys

ALWAYS REFER TO THE GRADUATE CATALOG FOR ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS

MASTER of SCIENCE – NON-THESIS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Complete 30 or more credit hours (as approved by advisor and/or committee)
- Minimum of 15 credits taken in major area
- Maximum of 6 credits of (3000-4000 level) courses, outside department, can be used for support courses if approved by advisor
- All work, including transfer credit, must be completed during the seven years preceding the date on which the degree is awarded
- Be certain that all transfer of credits were applied to your records if you submitted a request
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA in the major area and cumulative is needed to graduate
- The semester before graduation, the candidate should check [GIMS](#) to make sure their degree program and the Supervisory Committee information is accurate.

- Submit a degree application by the posted deadline
 - Review your copy of the Program Plan of Study form to be certain you have met all program requirements
 - Meet with your advisor to determine when the final examination requirement will be completed
 - Complete the [ESSIE Department Exit Survey](#) & return keys
- ALWAYS REFER TO THE GRADUATE CATALOG FOR ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS

MASTER of SCIENCE and MASTER OF ENGINEERING -THESIS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Complete 30 or more credit hours (as approved by advisor and/or committee)
 - Minimum of 15 credits taken in major area
 - Maximum of 6 credits of (3000-4000 level) courses, outside department, can be used for support courses if approved by advisor
 - All work, including transfer credit, must be completed during the seven years preceding the date on which the degree is awarded
 - Be certain that all transfer of credits were applied to your records if you submitted a request
 - Minimum of 3.0 GPA in the major area and cumulative is needed to graduate
 - The semester before graduation, the candidate should check [GIMS](#) to make sure their degree program and the Supervisory Committee information is accurate.
 - Submit a degree application by the posted deadline
 - Address punitive grades on the transcripts with the Graduate Academic staff
 - Review your copy of the Program Plan of Study form to be certain you have met all program requirements
 - Meet with your supervisory committee to determine when the final examination requirement will be completed
 - Meet deadline to defend the master's thesis and final submission deadline. Final exam packets are located under the forms link on the ESSIE website. Follow the process that is outlined there. Once the final examination is complete, the approved forms should be completed prior to the [Graduate School deadlines](#) via the processes listed on the forms [here](#); once received, the Graduate Academic staff will work on inputting your forms.
 - Complete the [ESSIE Department Exit Survey](#) & return keys
- ALWAYS REFER TO THE GRADUATE CATALOG FOR ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Programs are developed on an individual basis to satisfy the student's personal needs and career interests. Considerable latitude is possible in the development of outside interests to support the major area of concentration. This interest may be established in geology, mathematics and statistics, business, other branches of engineering, etc.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is not defined in terms of course hours but rather is considered to consist of a flexible program leading to mastery of a field of knowledge and contributing to professional development through formal and independent study and research. In all fields, the Ph.D. degree requires at least 90 credits beyond the bachelor's degree or a minimum of 60 credits beyond an accredited and awarded master's degree formally documented via the Master's Degree Acknowledgement (process outlined below). At least 45 credits of any doctoral degree must be completed at the University of Florida, and in all cases the student must complete the qualifying examination at the University of Florida.

The policy on the Period of Concentrated Study requirement for PhD students has been replaced by the residency requirement listed above. A department or college may establish and monitor its own more stringent requirement as desired. There is a preliminary examination for all doctoral students in the Civil Engineering Major which is scheduled in the student's second term in the program. In addition, all doctoral candidates must satisfy the foreign language requirement before taking the written and oral portions of the qualifying exam.

The supervisory committee consists of four professors. In general, a minimum of the chair and two other members must be from the Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering; in addition, the chair and one member must be from the student's major research area. All members must have a graduate classification of GF (Graduate Faculty). One

committee member, known as the external member, should be from outside of the department.

Every candidate for a doctoral program is required to prepare and present a dissertation that shows independent investigation and is acceptable in form and content to the supervisory committee and the Graduate School. Since all doctoral dissertations will be published by microfilm, it is necessary that the work be of publishable quality and suitable for publication.

All work for the doctorate must be completed within five calendar years after the qualifying examination or this examination must be repeated.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Master's Degree Acknowledgement (MDA)

The MDA is a formal process to acknowledge the content, level, relevancy, and contribution of a student's previously earned master's degree from a non-UF institution or in another field of study within UF to the student's doctoral program at the University of Florida. The student's committee chair must conduct a holistic review of the individual's official records and transcripts to evaluate the previously awarded master's degree, considering the age of the degree, curricular level, grades, and grading schemes. Note that international degrees may have timelines and curricula differing from UF standards. The MDA replaces the Transfer of Credit for up to 30 credits from an accredited master's degree program to the UF PhD. With an approved MDA, a UF PhD requires a minimum of 60 credits.

All courses beyond the master's degree taken at another university to be applied to the Ph.D. degree must be taken at an institution offering a doctoral degree and require approval of the Supervisory Committee Chair, College Dean and, by petition, the Graduate School of the University of Florida. All courses to be transferred must be letter graded, with a grade of B or better, and must be demonstrated to relate directly to the degree being sought. All such transfer requests must be made by petition no later than midterm of the third semester of Ph.D. study. The total number of credits (including 30 for a prior master's degree) that may be transferred cannot exceed 45, and in all cases the student must complete the qualifying examination at the University of Florida. In addition, any prior graduate-level credits earned at the University of Florida in the same discipline may be transferred into the doctoral program at the discretion of the Supervisory Committee. Any prior graduate-level credits earned at the University of Florida in a different discipline may be transferred into the doctoral program at the discretion of the Supervisory Committee and by petition to the Graduate School. In such cases, it is essential that the petition demonstrate the relevance of the prior course work to the degree presently being sought.

If a student decides to enroll and complete a course at an outside institution to transfer coursework to their degree program at UF, it must be completed prior to the final term of the degree program. An official transcript from the other institution must be available by midterm of the semester prior to the student's final term for a transfer of credit request to be completed by the department. There will be no exceptions to this as all transfer credits must be processed and showing on the student's transcripts by the student's graduating semester. The transfer credits must be listed on the student's [program plan of study](#) and approved by the student's chair in order for the CCE Graduate records staff to process a request to the Graduate School for consideration.

The responsibility rests with the supervisory committee to base acceptance of graduate transfer credits/MDA requests on established criteria for ensuring the academic integrity of course work. No courses taken by correspondence may be used for graduate credit or to meet the registration requirements for an assistantship.

To learn more about transfer credit requirements and restrictions, please refer to the [UF Graduate Catalog](#) under your respective degree program.

Graduate Courses Taken While a Non-degree Student

A University of Florida non-degree seeking student who subsequently enrolls in Graduate School may transfer up to

15 credit hours of 5000 or 6000 level courses taken. This is contingent upon approval of the student's advisor and that the courses meet the minimum grade requirement.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GRADUATE SCHOOL TRAVELING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

This program is designed for a student who wants to participate as a UF graduate student attending an institution of higher learning elsewhere, either within the Florida State University System or outside of the Florida State University System - but within the United States. The form to request participation in this program can be found at: <https://grad.ufl.edu/media/gradufl.edu/pdf/traveling.pdf>

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Appointment

Supervisory committees for graduate degree programs are nominated by the respective department chair, approved by the college dean and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The Dean of the Graduate School is an ex-officio member of all supervisory committees. Only those members of the faculty who have been appointed to the graduate faculty may serve as members of a supervisory committee unless a special appointment is completed and approved. The supervisory committee must be appointed by midterm of the third semester of enrollment. If a minor is designated for any degree, the committee must include one member as the representative for that proposed minor. If two minors are designated, two representatives must be appointed to the committee. If a student anticipates making a change in his or her graduate committee, he or she must do so no later than midterm of the final (graduating) semester. There are NO exceptions to this deadline.

Membership

The Ph.D. Supervisory Committee should be completed by the midpoint of the third semester of registration. The general duties and responsibilities of the Supervisory Committee for the doctoral candidate are described in the Graduate Catalog. The Supervisory Committee consists of four members selected from the graduate faculty. At least two members, including the Chair, must be from the student's home department, and at least one member must be from a different department to serve as the external member.

Special Appointments

The student may request that an individual with special qualifications/expertise be a member of the committee. The student must complete the "Special Supervisory Committee Appointment Petition" (found on the [ESSIE website](#)) and the student's chair must approve the form. Once the form is complete, the CCE Graduate records staff will forward the request for consideration by the Graduate School.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The Graduate School requires a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average (GPA). If your GPA falls below a 3.0, you will be placed on probation. Students will be expected to raise the GPA the following semester to a minimum of 3.00. Any student on assistantship whose GPA falls below a 3.00 will lose the assistantship per the Graduate School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

The Graduate Council, at their May 18, 1989, meeting, adopted a Leave of Absence Policy for all doctoral students. The policy as follows became effective Fall Semester 1989.

“A doctoral student, who will not be registered at the University of Florida for a period of more than one semester, needs to request written permission from his/her faculty advisor for a leave of absence for a designated period of time.”

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The doctoral student must prepare and present a written doctoral research proposal, developed in consultation with the Supervisory Committee Chair, to the Supervisory Committee. The doctoral student must then make an oral presentation of the proposal to the Supervisory Committee prior to the qualifying examination.

QUALIFYING EXAM

Written and oral comprehensive qualifying examinations are required of all Ph.D. candidates. The exams should be taken no later than the fourth semester of residence toward the degree. The Supervisory Committee has the full responsibility for the formulation, administration, and evaluation of the qualifying exam. Arrangements for the exam should be made in consultation with the Supervisory Committee Chair. When you are ready to schedule your oral defense, you must complete the on-line Admission to Candidacy form at <https://www.essie.ufl.edu/resources/current-students/#gcc>

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

A graduate student does not become a candidate for the Ph.D. degree until granted formal admission to candidacy. Such admission requires the approval of the student's Supervisory Committee. The approval will be based on (1) the academic record of the student, (2) the opinion of the Supervisory Committee concerning overall fitness for candidacy, (3) an approved dissertation topic, and (4) successful completion of a qualifying examination as described above. Admission to candidacy will be made as soon as the qualifying examination has been passed and a dissertation topic has been approved by the student's Supervisory Committee. Once approved, the Admission to Candidacy form will be worked on by the Academic Office for submission to the Graduate School.

TIME LIMITS

The Ph.D. degree must be completed within five calendar years after passing the qualifying exam, or this exam must be repeated. At least two semesters must elapse between admission to candidacy and the date of the awarding of the degree. The semester in which the qualifying exam is passed is counted if the exam is completed prior to the mid-point of the semester.

FINAL EXAM

Upon completion of the dissertation, the Supervisory Committee will conduct a final oral examination, focused principally on the dissertation research, although other relevant topics may also be examined. The examination can be scheduled during the term proceeding the semester in which the degree is to be conferred. Students are responsible for coordinating with their Committee Members to schedule the time/date of their exam. The final exam packets are located under the forms link on the ESSIE website. Follow the process that is outlined there. Once the final examination is complete, the approved forms should be completed prior to the [Graduate School deadlines](#) via the processes listed on the forms [here](#); once received, the Graduate Academic staff will work on inputting your forms.

DISSERTATION SUBMISSION

Guidelines concerning the [format of the dissertation](#) and electronic submission requirements are published by the Graduate School Editorial Office. Any questions regarding this should be directed to the [Editorial Office](#). Also note that the *UMI Proquest Publishing Agreement* should be obtained from the Editorial Office.

STEPS TO FOLLOW TOWARD GRADUATION for the PHD

- Complete 90 or more credit hours (as approved by advisor and/or committee)
- Minimum of 15 credits taken in major area
- Maximum of 6 credits of (3000-4000 level) courses, outside department, can be used for support courses if approved by advisor
- All work, including transfer credit, must be completed during the seven years preceding the date on which the degree is awarded
- Be certain that all transfer of credits were applied to your records if you submitted a request
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA in the major area and cumulative is needed to graduate
- Complete the written and oral qualifying (Admit to Candidacy) exam
- Address punitive grades on the transcripts with the Graduate Academic staff
- Submit a degree application by the posted deadline
- Review your copy of the Program Plan of Study form to be certain you have met all program requirements
- The semester before graduation, the candidate should check [GIMS](#) to make sure their degree program and the Supervisory Committee information is accurate.
- Submit an approved Transmittal letter
- Meet first submission deadline
- Meet with your supervisory committee to determine when the final examination requirement will be completed and process the paperwork
- Defend the PhD and meet the final submission deadline
- Submit UMI Proquest form to [Editorial office](#)
- Complete the [ESSIE Department Exit Survey](#) & return keys
- ALWAYS REFER TO THE GRADUATE CATALOG FOR ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS

CHAPTER 3: ACADEMIC HONESTY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

HONOR CODE

Information on procedures is in the Student Guide at the following [link](#) and is set forth in Florida Administrative Code. Students should also refer to <http://generalcounsel.ufl.edu/> to obtain specific information regarding the disciplinary actions taken by the university. In the fall of 1995, University of Florida students voted to enact a student Honor Code. They approved the following:

Preamble:

In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code is –“we, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Pledge: On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied - “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

CHAPTER 4: FINANCIAL MATTERS

Qualified graduate students are eligible for assistantships and other financial awards. Students are encouraged to speak with the faculty concerning research projects and assistantships.

LETTERS OF OFFER AND APPOINTMENT

When you have been awarded an assistantship, a letter of offer will be given to you. This must be signed and returned to the department for processing. You will then receive a Letter of Appointment. This letter contains the description of the graduate assistant salary, effective dates of appointment, supervisor and job duties. The Letter of Appointment must be signed by the supervisor and student. The appointments are submitted by the instruction of the faculty member. If there is an error on the Letter of Appointment, please notify ESSIE HR staff so they can check on it and make any necessary changes.

SIGN UP FOR PAYROLL

In order to receive a paycheck, you must be signed up on payroll. ESSIE HR staff will send you an email with instructions regarding required hire documents and actions. The required documents include a U.S. social security card. International students without a social security card will be given a temporary number and will eventually need to apply for one.

TUITION WAIVER AND FEES

Your tuition will be paid for 9 semester credit hours in the Fall and Spring, 6 in the Summer. Your tuition waiver will run after Drop/Add. You are responsible for paying your fees that can be viewed at <https://www.fa.ufl.edu/directives/2024-25-academic-year-tuition-and-fees/>. There may be a delay in the processing of your tuition waiver so pay a small amount of fees before the deadline. Failure to meet these deadlines could result in you being charged a \$100.00 late fee.

Tuition waivers will be voided if the appointment terminates before the end of the semester, or the student withdraws from the University. If the tuition waiver is voided, the student is responsible for the entire amount of tuition and fees.

EVALUATIONS

It is required by the Graduate School that any student holding an assistantship have a job performance evaluation during the contract period as stated in the Letter of Appointment. Students and faculty supervisors are required to sign the performance evaluation and return to ESSIE HR.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If your visa expires, under no circumstances can you be paid nor can you have a tuition fee waiver. International students holding an F-1 visa may not work more than a total of 20 hours per week. This is the total of all appointments. In addition, students holding an F-1 visa may not work off campus.

CHAPTER 5: SAFETY

The various laboratories operated by the department are hazardous working areas! The Division of Environmental Health and Safety of the University of Florida provide overall guidance in the area of general laboratory safety. Each laboratory has specific requirements based on hazards associated with the task.

Any questions concerning safety should be directed to the HWCOE Director of Safety or Lab Safety Coordinators. Emergency phone numbers for the Lab Safety Coordinators, Civil and Coastal Engineering personnel, the Gainesville Fire Department and the UF Police Department will be prominently displayed at several points in the lab areas.

Resources:

University of Florida Environmental Health & Safety - <https://www.ehs.ufl.edu/>

Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Safety Office - <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/safety/>

SAFETY RELATED TELEPHONE NUMBERS

James Fleetwood, Director of Safety, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

(352) 294-7954

Taylor Rawlinson, Assistant Engineer, Weil Hall Structures & Materials Laboratory

(352) 846-3526

ESSIE Office

(352) 392-9537

University Health Services

(352) 392-1161

Alachua County Mental Health Crisis Line

(352) 264-6789

Environmental Health & Safety

(352) 392-1591

Hazardous Waste Management

(352) 392-8400

Workers' Compensation

(352) 392-4940

University Police Department - (Non-Emergency)

(352) 392-1111

University Police Department - 911

Gainesville Fire Department - 911

CHAPTER 6: COMPUTER SUPPORT

The department of Civil and Coastal Engineering is not responsible for maintaining or repairing any personally owned computers. If students have a problem with their 'personal' computers, they can receive help from the University's "HELP DESK". The Help Desk can be contacted by calling 392-HELP. The Help Desk staff will try to answer any questions or help with any problem. If they must look at your machine, you will need to make an appointment to take it to them. For information about computing services at UF, access this url: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

CHAPTER 7: MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

KEY POLICY

Keys will be assigned to all new faculty, staff, visiting professors or scholars and graduate students after a faculty or administrative signature has been obtained.

A completed Key and Building Request form (found on the ESSIE website) must be submitted to the receptionist located in 365 Weil. A key will then be given to the requestor.

Since it is difficult for the key coordinator to track down undergraduate students and post doc students (keys are rarely returned and are usually passed on to the next group of students), visiting scholars and professors, keys for these groups will only be assigned to the faculty member or the club/organization sponsor and he/she will be responsible for maintaining this key inventory and returning the keys to the coordinator once surrendered by the holder.

Students are required to surrender their keys prior to the commencement ceremony. A hold will be placed on the graduating student's account unless the key is returned prior to commencement. In the case that a student will be continuing on for further graduate work or as a post doc, he/she should meet with the key coordinator to inform her/him that this is the case. If the student is a post doc, his/her key will be reassigned to the student's faculty supervisor.

MAIL

The Departmental mail is picked up at approximately 9:15 AM. If you are mailing anything, you must include the project account number. **DO NOT USE THE UNIVERSITY MAIL SERVICE FOR PERSONAL USE.**

A departmental mail slip must be completed if you have any work-related mail. Please see the receptionist located in 365 Weil Hall.

University regulations prohibit personal mail to be processed from departmental offices. In addition, do not use the Civil and Coastal Engineering Department address on personal mail (e.g, record clubs, charge cards, bank accounts, etc.). If you have personal self-stamped mail you can take it to the main office and it will be mailed for you.

Due to the large number of graduate students, individual mailboxes cannot be provided. However, we do provide mailboxes by area—(structures, transportation, etc.) Any UF mail will be placed in these boxes. Be sure to check it often. If you change your program to a different area, be sure to contact the staff in the GRAC so that the graduate student list can be corrected and your mail will be placed in the correct area mailbox.

AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT

The Civil Engineering Major in the Civil and Coastal Engineering Department has several pieces of audio/visual equipment which can be checked out for presentations to classes, final defense, etc., but not for personal use.

If you wish to reserve an overhead projector, slide projector, or TV with VCR, see the CCE Department Program Assistant in the main office. Since this equipment is in high demand, it is strongly recommended that you make your reservations several days in advance.

CONFERENCE ROOM RESERVATIONS

Students who would like to utilize the conference room must see the receptionist located in 365 Weil Hall in order to reserve the space and check for availability.

Revised 12.20.24