# Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.)

## Coursework

**MINIMUM 24 UNITS:**
- **MAJOR:** At least 12 units (200-level courses) with a GPA of 3.5+
- **INSIDE MINOR:** At least six units (at least one 200-level grad course) with a GPA of 3.0+. One or more of these courses may be outside EECS.
- **OUTSIDE MINOR:** At least six units (at least one 200-level grad course) with a GPA of 3.0+. Courses must be outside EECS, with at most one cross-listed with EECS.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:**
- All courses must be taken for a letter grade.
- Courses in 298, 299, 375, and 602 do not count.
- Students can petition to transfer at most 12 units from another institution.

The preliminary requirements include an oral exam and breadth courses.

**ORAL EXAM:** Students must demonstrate to a committee of faculty members an integrated grasp of the area’s body of knowledge in an unstructured framework. All students must take the exam at the start of their 3rd semester.

**BREADTH COURSES** must:
- be at a graduate or an advanced undergraduate level
- be at least three units
- be for a letter grade

EE students must take two courses in areas different from the oral exam (with A- or better).

CS students must take a course in at least three subject areas passing each with at least a B+.

Upon completion of the prelim requirements, students should submit a "Blue Card" to their Staff Graduate Advisor. The blue card is a non-binding document that the staff reviews to ensure your courses satisfy requirements.

The Qualifying Exam is a university requirement. Students must demonstrate an expertise in the areas of the discipline that have been specified for the exam, and be able to produce an acceptable plan for their dissertation.

**The Qualifying Exam should be taken by the end of a student’s third year AND only after the preliminary requirements are fulfilled.**

At least four weeks prior to the exam, students should plan to organize their committee and submit the following forms to their Staff Graduate Advisor:
- Application for the Qualifying Exam
- Departmental Application for the Qualifying Exam
- "White Card"

Advancing to candidacy lets the university know that a student is almost ready to graduate. Students must demonstrate an expertise in the areas of the discipline that have been specified for the exam, and be able to produce an acceptable plan for their dissertation.

**ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY REQUIREMENT**

All EECS doctoral students must serve as a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) in the EECS department.

**TEACHING REQUIREMENT**

Students are expected to give a talk before their final submission on the principal results of their research (this is a departmental graduation requirement). The Dissertaton talk must be advertised on the EECS Departmental Calendar at least one week in advance.

**DISSERTATION TALK**

Students must file the dissertation by the last day of the semester in which they plan to graduate. Detailed instructions are found on the website at the bottom of this page.

**FILE THESIS/TECH REPORT**

The most important part of filing is submitting the dissertation to the Grad Division and providing the following documents to the Staff Graduate Advisor:
- Copy of the signed signature page
- Copy/printout of the title page
- Copy/printout of the abstract

Students must also upload a copy of the dissertation to the EECS website at https://buffy.eecs.berkeley.edu/PHP/Anydb/detmixed.php?f_database=deptinfo&f_worktable=nr_v_gradrpts&student_id=.

A **graduation checklist** and a **recommended timeline** are also available for students to ensure they meet all the requirements.