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Industrial Engineering Graduate Program Contact Information

Prospective Industrial Engineering Graduate Students
For all inquiries related to the IE Graduate Program, please email imsegradprogram@iastate.edu.

Current Industrial Engineering Graduate Students
The Industrial Engineering Graduate Program Assistant is the primary point of contact for all current students and is located in the Graduate Student Services Office (3038 Black Engineering).

Forms requiring the signature of the Director of Graduate Education (DOGE) should be submitted to the Graduate Program Assistant.

Abbreviations Used in this Handbook

B.S. – Bachelor of Science degree
DOGE – Director of Graduate Education
GR ST – Graduate Studies (course designator)
IE – Industrial Engineering (course designator)
IMSE – Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering
ISSO – International Students and Scholars Office
ISU – Iowa State University
LOI – Letter of Intent
LOR – Letter of Recommendation
ME – Mechanical Engineering (course designator)
M.Eng. – Master of Engineering degree (coursework-only master’s degree)
M.S. – Master of Science degree
Ph.D. – Doctor of Philosophy degree
POS – Program of Study
POSC – Program of Study and Committee
QE – Qualifying Exam
RA – Research Assistant
TA – Teaching Assistant
Graduate Studies in Industrial Engineering

The Department of Industrial & Manufacturing Systems Engineering (IMSE) in the College of Engineering at Iowa State University offers a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.), a Master of Science (M.S.) and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in Industrial Engineering (IE). Graduate coursework and research activities are focused on Advanced Manufacturing; Human Factors & Ergonomics; Operations Research & Analytics; and Systems Engineering & Engineering Management.

Research Areas in Industrial Engineering

Advanced Manufacturing
Advanced manufacturing research in the department focuses on advanced manufacturing technologies and processes, digital manufacturing, advanced sensing and control, and advanced materials manufacturing. Students are engaged in research projects that involve multiple manufacturing research labs including the Interdisciplinary Manufacturing Engineering and Design Laboratory (electrospinning, ball mill grinding, cryomilling, compression molding, microscopy, thermal analysis, fatigue testing, and spectroscopy), the Rapid Manufacturing and Prototyping Laboratory (additive manufacturing, hybrid manufacturing, geometric modeling), and the Wind Energy Manufacturing Laboratory (advanced composite manufacturing processes, laser tracking, laser scanning).

Human Factors & Ergonomics
Human factors and ergonomics research in the department helps people work more efficiently, effectively, and safely with the technologies and work systems around them. Students are engaged in research that advances our understanding of the capabilities and limitations of human beings and then seeks to apply that knowledge to the design of the equipment, the work environment, and the jobs that they perform for safe, comfortable, and effective performance. Current research areas are physical ergonomics and cognitive engineering. In physical ergonomics, the particular focus is on injury prevention, spine biomechanics, upper extremity biomechanics and ergonomic intervention effectiveness research. In cognitive engineering, the research focus is on human performance engineering, human computer interaction, and system design that enhances performance, reduces errors, and increases safety of the overall joint human-machine system. Courses include occupational biomechanics, human factors, human factors in product design, human-computer interaction, cognitive engineering, applied ergonomics and work design, and research methods.

Operations Research & Analytics
Operations research and analytics research is focused on the development and application of mathematical tools and models to solve problems of a quantitative nature. The main research areas include the design and analysis of quantitative models to support effective decision making in industrial, commercial, and governmental systems. Specific areas of course work and research include: mathematical optimization (linear programming, nonlinear programming, integer programming, etc.), data analytics, stochastic processes, queuing, simulation, inventory and scheduling, and network analysis.

Systems Engineering & Engineering Management
Systems engineering is focused on the design and management of large, complex, and interdisciplinary technological systems. Engineering management is the art and science of planning, organizing, allocating resources, and directing and controlling activities that have a technological component, thereby bridging the gap between engineering and management. Research in this area is focused on decision and risk analysis, quantitative modeling (e.g., optimization, simulation), and analysis of complexity and emergent phenomena in large-scale systems. Courses are offered in decision analysis, risk analysis, requirements engineering, project management, and engineering management theory.
**Admissions Information**

To be successful in the program, students should have a strong background in engineering, mathematics, or physical sciences and exhibit good working skills and high ethical standards.

**Admission into the Industrial Engineering Major for the M.Eng., M.S., or Ph.D. Programs**

To be considered for admission to the graduate program, the applicant should have a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering or related field from a college, university, or technical school of recognized standing. Other educational backgrounds will be considered on an individual basis. High academic achievement or other persuasive evidence of professional accomplishments is expected for admission to the program. An applicant may apply as a direct-entry Ph.D. applicant when they have not earned a master’s degree.

External (to IMSE at ISU) applicants must provide GRE scores. If an applicant is a current B.S. IE student at Iowa State University and has a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater, the requirement of supplying GRE scores is waived. Likewise for a recent (within the last six years) B.S. IE graduate from Iowa State University with a GPA of 3.0 or greater, the requirement of supplying GRE scores is waived. Applicants who have been granted this waiver can, however, submit GRE scores if they wish.

As a guideline for prospective students, typical GRE scores for new students are 155 Quantitative, 145 Verbal, and 3.0 for Analytical. A GPA of 3.00 for the M.Eng. or M.S. program and 3.40 for the Ph.D. program are recommended. These represent typical student qualifications and should not be interpreted as a guarantee of admission to the program.

An English proficiency test is required for students whose native language is not English. This requirement can be waived for applicants who hold a post-secondary degree from a U.S. institution.

Please follow this [link](#) for complete application instructions and requirements.

**English Exam for International Students**

This test is taken upon arrival and is for non-native English speakers who do not have a prior bachelor’s degree, master’s degree or Ph.D. degree from a U.S. college or university. Entrants who have a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, or Ph.D. degree from a U.S. college or university, where the language of instruction was English, certify that the English requirement has been met.

**Transfer Applications from within Iowa State University**

Students seeking a transfer from one major within ISU to an IE graduate degree program must follow the same application process as students applying from outside of the University. Although it is not required, we highly encourage the potential transfer student to update all application materials. These materials must be emailed to the Graduate Program Assistant by the deadline for the semester that the transfer will begin.

**Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing**

These requirements are based on the same requirements as an M.S. applicant. Students may take up to nine credits before admission into a degree or certificate program. Details on the application process are available on this page.
Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing

The graduate certificate in advanced manufacturing provides students who have strong science, technology, mathematics and/or engineering backgrounds with additional graduate education in advanced manufacturing. The students are required to take four courses with emphasis on advanced manufacturing and design innovation concepts. Three courses must be selected from the list of courses in advanced manufacturing and one must be selected from the design innovation list.

**Advanced Manufacturing courses**
- IE 545—Rapid prototyping and manufacturing
- IE 546—Geometric variability in manufacturing
- IE 549—Computer aided Design and Manufacturing
- IE 543—Wind Energy Manufacturing
- IE 642—Simultaneous Engineering in Manufacturing Systems
- ME 520—Material and Manufacturing Considerations in Design
- ME 521—Mechanical Behavior and Manufacturing of Polymers and Composites
- ME 527—Mechanics of Machining and Finishing Processes
- ME 528—Micro/Nano Manufacturing

**Design Innovation courses**
- ME 517—Advanced Machine Design
- ME 523—Creativity and Imagination for Engineering and Design
- ME 525—Optimization methods for Complex design
- ME 557—Computer Graphics and Geometric Modeling
- ME 564—Fracture and Fatigue
- ME 625—Surface Modeling
Requirements for the Concurrent B.S./M.S. IE and B.S./M.Eng. IE Degrees

Up to six credits of graduate work can be used to satisfy your program requirements for both degrees. After completing the B.S. program, you will be a full time graduate student for the remainder of the M.S./M.Eng. program.

Program Policies

1. Up to two semesters of concurrent enrollment are allowed.
2. Students can enroll in up to nine credits of coursework at the 500-level in Industrial Engineering for both the B.S. and M.S./M.Eng. degrees. Six credits will be shared with your undergraduate degree. The remaining three credits will be applied to your M.S. or M.Eng. degree.
3. Students must take at least three credits of 500-level courses each semester during concurrent enrollment and will be paying graduate tuition and fees.
4. Students participating in the concurrent program must adhere to the requirements for the graduate degree program in which they are enrolled.

Admission Requirements

Students must have a record of high academic achievement and should have a GPA of at least 3.40. Students must be within 30 credits of completing the requirements for the B.S. degree to enroll in the concurrent program. Prospective students must speak with their undergraduate advisor prior to applying.

Application Procedure

You will need to submit your application documents prior to the start of your last two semesters or last semester of your B.S. degree program. The application and documents must be submitted by the deadline of your intended semester of entry. Please refer to the following link for application requirements and deadlines.

Application Documents

*The following items must be emailed to the Graduate Program Assistant:*

1. Concurrent Enrollment Request Form
2. Statement of Purpose
3. One Letter of Recommendation (LOR) (from an IMSE faculty member)**
4. Résumé/C.V.
5. Transcript (obtained from your undergraduate academic adviser)
6. Undergraduate grad plan (from your undergraduate academic adviser)

** If a hardcopy LOR is in a sealed envelope, the student must hand-deliver the document and it must remain unopened. If the LOR is submitted via email, the faculty member must email it to the Graduate Program Assistant directly. If an LOR is submitted contrary to these instructions, it will not be marked as having been received and the application may be marked as “Incomplete.”
## M.Eng. Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. One course from each of the following areas is required.</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 571—Occupational Biomechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 572—Design and Evaluation of Human-Computer Interaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 576—Human Factors in Product Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 577—Human Factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing and Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 514—Production Scheduling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 541—Inventory Control and Production Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 543—Wind Energy Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 545—Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 546—Geometric Variability in Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 549—Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 508—Design and Analysis of Allocation Mechanisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 510—Network Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 513—Analysis of Stochastic Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 514—Production Scheduling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 519—Simulation Modeling and Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 534—Linear Programming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE 541—Inventory Control and Production Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Additional graduate-level courses in industrial engineering</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Continuous registration in IE 501 throughout graduate program</strong></td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Courses outside of industrial engineering</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1 Credits listed are the minimum for each category.

2 These courses are typically at the 500-level, but with the approval of the major professor, up to six credits from 300- and 400-level non-IE courses may be used on a plan of study. For students who enter the M.Eng. degree program in spring semester of 2018 or thereafter, a limit of three credits at the 300 level will be in effect.

3 For the M.Eng. degree a maximum of six credits of coursework may be transferred from another school. Any transfer of credits from another institution must be approved by the student’s POS committee and the DOGE. Graduate credit will be approved for transfer only if the student received a “B” or better and the institution from which the course(s) originate(s) must confirm that the transfer credits are from graduate courses.
M.Eng. Program Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfy Graduate College English Requirement (International Students)</td>
<td>Beginning of student’s first semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Program of Study and Committee Form</td>
<td>By the end of the second month of the second academic semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Application for Graduation</td>
<td>Typically within three weeks of the start of the semester of graduation (See ISU Graduation Deadlines)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework Only Final Check</td>
<td>Typically within three weeks of the start of the semester of graduation (review ISU Graduation Deadlines)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**M.Eng. Program of Study Form (POSC)**

The POSC is an electronic form that lists all the courses that will be taken to complete the M.Eng. degree program and also lists the POS committee. This form is completed via AccessPlus and it must be completed by the end of the second month of the student’s second semester.

The POSC for the M.Eng. degree typically lists just one individual as the POS committee. The default individual is the DOGE but any member of the IMSE graduate faculty may be selected.

To file a POSC a student logs into AccessPlus and navigates to the “Grad Student Status” tab. On the right-hand side of the screen the student will see a button labeled “My POSC Form.” The student clicks on that button and a blank POSC will be displayed. For further instructions, the student is directed to the help page of the ISU Graduate College. The student is advised to consult with the major professor prior to filing the POSC. If the DOGE is not the major professor, the student’s major professor must approve the POSC prior to the DOGE receiving it electronically. After the form is routed to the DOGE it is then sent to the ISU Graduate College for final approval. If the POSC is rejected it will be routed back to the student.

**Requirements for the M.Eng. Minor in Industrial Engineering**

A student pursuing an M.Eng. degree in another major at Iowa State University may be eligible to pursue a minor in Industrial Engineering. The student must select at least three 500- or 600-level IE courses – including experimental courses but excluding independent study courses\(^1\). The student wishing a minor in Industrial Engineering should consult with the DOGE of the IE program.

\(^1\) Cross-listed courses must be taken as IE courses. It is the student’s responsibility to check with their academic home department to ensure that cross-listed courses taken for the minor will satisfy the requirements for their major.
Requirements for the Master of Science in Industrial Engineering Degree

Master of Science - (M.S. IE) - 30 credits minimum

M.S. with Thesis Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits 1,3,4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 500- and 600-level industrial engineering courses</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Courses outside of industrial engineering 2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. IE 699: Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Continuous registration in IE 501 throughout graduate program</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. GR ST 565 Responsible Conduct of Research 6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR

M.S. with Creative Component Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits 1,3,5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 500- and 600-level industrial engineering courses</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Courses outside of industrial engineering 2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. IE 599: Creative Component</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Continuous registration in IE 501 throughout graduate program</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. GR ST 565 Responsible Conduct of Research 6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Credits listed are the minimum for each category.
2 These courses are typically at the 500-level, but with the approval of the student’s plan of study committee, up to six credits from 300- and 400-level non-IE courses may be used on a plan of study. For students who enter the M.S. degree program in spring semester of 2018 or thereafter, a limit of three credits at the 300 level will be in effect.
3 For the M.S. degree a maximum of six credits of coursework may be transferred from another school. Research credits do not transfer. Any transfer of credits from another institution must be approved by the student’s POS committee and the DOGE. Graduate credit will be approved for transfer only if the student received a “B” or better and the institution from which the course(s) originate(s) must confirm that the transfer credits are from graduate courses.
4 During the semester of a scheduled final oral exam students must be registered for at least one credit of IE 699.
5 During the semester of a scheduled final oral exam students must be registered for at least one credit of IE 599.
6 Typically taken the second or third semester.
M.S. Program Timeline

To review policies regarding specific items click on the “Action” item to advance to the appropriate page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfy Graduate College English Requirement (International Students)</td>
<td>Beginning of student’s first semester</td>
<td>None (policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Program of Study and Committee Form</td>
<td>By the end of the second month of the second academic semester</td>
<td>Program of Study and Committee Form via AccessPlus &gt; Grad Stdnt Status tab &gt; My POSC Form button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Application for Graduation</td>
<td>Typically within three weeks of the start of the semester of graduation (review ISU Graduation Deadlines)</td>
<td>Graduation tab in AccessPlus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Request for Final Oral Examination</td>
<td>At least three weeks before the intended date of the student’s final oral examination</td>
<td>Complete the eForm. Must be received by the Graduate College by the deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Thesis to Members of the POS Committee</td>
<td>Two week prior to the final oral examination</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Final Oral Examination</td>
<td>Within two years of entry</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M.S. Program of Study and Committee Form (POSC)

The POSC is an electronic form that lists all the courses that will be taken to complete the M.S. degree program and also lists the POS committee. This form is completed via AccessPlus and it must be completed by the end of the second month of the student’s second semester.

The POSC for the M.S. degree typically lists three faculty members (major professor and two additional committee members) forming the POS committee. The major professor serves as chairperson of the POS committee. The student and the major professor with work together to determine the second and third members of the POS committee. One member of the POS committee must have an appointment outside of the IMSE department.

To file a POSC a student logs into AccessPlus and navigates to the “Grad Student Status” tab. On the right-hand side of the screen the student will see a button labeled “My POSC Form.” The student clicks on that button and a blank POSC will be displayed. For further instructions, the student is directed to the help page of the ISU Graduate College. The student is advised to consult with the major professor and POS committee prior to filing the POSC. After the form is approved by the POS committee, it is routed to the DOGE and then on to the ISU Graduate College. If the POSC is rejected it will be routed back to the student. All POS committee members must approve any changes to the POSC.

M.S. Thesis

The M.S. thesis is the result of a focused research effort by the student and must be prepared according to the Graduate College requirements. Per Department policy, the final copy of the thesis must be emailed to the Graduate Program Assistant when the student uploads the document to ProQuest.
M.S. Final Oral Examination

The thesis must be distributed to members of the POS committee at least two weeks prior to the final oral examination. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange a meeting time and place in agreement to all POS committee members. The exam is generally a defense of the thesis; however, questions may be asked on specific coursework or areas of concentration. The student must be registered for a minimum of one credit hour of IE 699 during the semester in which the final oral examination is taken. For examinations to be valid, all members of the POS committee must be present throughout the entire scheduled period of the exam.

The Request for Final Oral Examination eForm is available on the Graduate College’s website and must be received by the Graduate College at least three weeks prior to the intended date of the exam, per the deadline established by the Graduate College. The student is responsible for contacting the Graduate Program Assistant to reserve a conference room. The student must provide to the POS committee the “Final Oral Exam paperwork packet” which will be available thirty minutes before the start of their exam. The Graduate Program Assistant will provide this paperwork to the student.

Requirements for the M.S. Minor in Industrial Engineering

A student pursuing an M.S. degree in another major at Iowa State University may be eligible to pursue a minor in Industrial Engineering. The student must select at least three 500- or 600-level IE courses – including experimental courses but excluding independent study courses. The POS committee must include a faculty member from the IMSE Department. The student wishing a minor in Industrial Engineering should consult with the DOGE of the IE program.

2 Cross-listed courses must be taken as IE courses. It is the student’s responsibility to check with their academic home department to ensure that cross-listed courses taken for the minor will satisfy the requirements for their major.
Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial Engineering Degree
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) - 72 credit minimum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ph.D. Course Requirements</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits $^{1,2}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. At least 9 credits of IE courses at ISU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. at least two of these courses must be at the 600 level $^3$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. up to 27 credits from a master’s degree may (with approval from the Plan of Study Committee) be applied</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Courses outside of industrial engineering $^4$</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. IE 699: Research $^5$</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Continuous registration in IE 501 throughout graduate program</td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. GR ST 565 Responsible Conduct of Research $^6$</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^1$ Credits listed are the minimum for each category.

$^2$ For the Ph.D. degree a maximum of 27 credits of coursework may be transferred from another school. Research credits do not transfer. Any transfer of credits from another institution must be approved by the student’s POS committee and the DOGE. Graduate credit will be approved for transfer only if the student received a “B” or better and the institution from which the course(s) originate(s) must confirm that the transfer credits are from graduate courses.

$^3$ For the 600-level IE courses, students may take 600-level courses from other departments or IE 690 (Independent Study). All proposed IE 690 projects must be approved by the IMSE Graduate Committee.

$^4$ These courses are typically at the 500- or 600-level, but with the approval of the student’s POS committee, up to fifteen credits from 300- and 400-level non-IE courses may be used on a plan of study, with a maximum of six credits at the 300 level. For students who enter the Ph.D. degree program in spring semester of 2018 or thereafter, a limit of nine credits at the 300/400 level will be in effect, with a limit of three credits at the 300 level.

$^5$ During the semester of a scheduled final oral exam students must register for at least one credit of IE 699.

$^6$ Typically taken the second or third semester.
### Ph.D. Program Timeline

To review policies regarding specific items click on the “Action” item to advance to the appropriate page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Required Forms (ISU, Graduate College, IMSE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfy Graduate College English Requirement</td>
<td>Beginning of student’s first semester</td>
<td>Graduate College: None (policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(International Students)</td>
<td></td>
<td>IMSE: Form available from the IE Graduate Program Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declare Major Professor</td>
<td>Within two months of entry</td>
<td>Graduation College &amp; IMSE: Program of Study and Committee Form via AccessPlus &gt; Grad Stdnt Status tab &gt; My POSC Form button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take IMSE Qualifying Examination</td>
<td>Before the beginning of the student’s fourth semester (not including summer semesters)</td>
<td>IMSE: Please see “PHD Qualifying Examination” &gt; “Requirements for EVERY Ph.D. Classification”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Program of Study and Committee Form</td>
<td>Within three months of passing the Qualifying Examination</td>
<td>Graduation College &amp; IMSE: Program of Study and Committee Form via AccessPlus &gt; Grad Stdnt Status tab &gt; My POSC Form button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Request for Preliminary Oral Examination</td>
<td>At least two weeks prior to proposed preliminary oral examination date</td>
<td>Graduate College: Complete the eForm. Must be received by the Graduate College by the deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Dissertation Proposal to Committee</td>
<td>At least two weeks prior to the preliminary oral examination</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Preliminary Oral Examination</td>
<td>At least six months prior to final oral examination</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Application for Graduation</td>
<td>Typically within three weeks of the start of the semester of graduation (review ISU Graduation Deadlines)</td>
<td>Graduation College: “Graduation” tab in AccessPlus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Request for Final Oral Examination</td>
<td>At least three weeks before the intended date of the student’s final oral examination</td>
<td>Graduate College: Complete the eForm. Must be received by the Graduate College by the deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Dissertation to Members of the POS Committee</td>
<td>Two weeks prior to the final oral examination</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Final Oral Examination</td>
<td>At least six months after the preliminary oral examination</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ph.D. Program of Study and Committee Form (POSC)
The POSC is an electronic form that lists POS committee members and all of the courses that will be taken to complete the Ph.D. degree program, including courses transferred from a master’s degree. This form is completed via AccessPlus and it must be completed within three months of passing the Qualifying Exam.

The POSC shall list at least five members of the Graduate Faculty as the POS committee. It must include at least three members, including the major professor, from within the student’s major or program. A term member of the graduate faculty may participate in the direction of a student’s dissertation research as a co-major professor if a full member of the graduate faculty serves as a co-major professor and jointly accepts responsibility for direction of the dissertation. The major professor serves as chairperson of the committee. A faculty member holding a joint or courtesy (non-salaried) appointment may not serve as an "outside the department" member on a committee if the student's major is in either of the departments represented by the joint or courtesy appointment. For examinations to be valid, all members of the committee must be present throughout the entire scheduled period of the exam. Exceptions need to be approved by the ISU Graduate College.

To file a POSC a student logs into AccessPlus and navigates to the “Grad Student Status” tab. On the right-hand side of the screen the student will see a button labeled “My POSC Form.” The student clicks on that button and a blank POSC will be displayed. For further instructions, the student is directed to the help page of the ISU Graduate College. The student is advised to consult with the major professor and committee prior to filing the POSC. After the form is approved by the committee, it is routed to the DOGE and then on to the ISU Graduate College. If the POSC is rejected it will be routed back to student.

All committee members must approve any changes to the POSC.

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination (QE)
The Qualifying Examination is required for all students in Ph.D. program; for all students seeking minor in Industrial Engineering while pursuing a Ph.D. in another program; and all students seeking a co-major in Industrial Engineering. The QE is an assessment of a student’s ability to conduct research in the student’s focus area. There are three components for the IMSE QE: academic performance in coursework, journal article submission, and oral exam. Each student must pass all components of the IMSE QE to continue in the Ph.D. program.

Within the first two months of beginning the Ph.D. program, each student and their major professor must complete a Major Professor Declaration Form available from the Graduate Program Assistant. This requirement is noted here as it is critically important for the incoming Ph.D. student to quickly establish a working relationship with an IMSE faculty member to meet the journal article submission requirement of the IMSE QE. Timelines for the IMSE Qualifying exam can vary depending on the “type” of Ph.D. student:

A. QE Timing and Coursework Requirements by Ph.D. Classification
   i. Traditional Ph.D.
   Students who hold a master’s degree from another institution are considered Traditional Ph.D. students. These students must take at least four (12 credit minimum) graduate level industrial engineering courses (excluding IE 501, IE 697, and IE 699) in the first three semesters of attendance and achieve a GPA of at least 3.40 in this coursework. The deadline of the IMSE Qualifying Exam (journal article submission deadline and oral exam) for traditional Ph.D. students is before the fourth semester of attendance.
ii. Direct Entry Ph.D.
Students who begin the Ph.D. program without having already achieved a master’s degree are considered Direct Entry Ph.D. students. The coursework performance assessment will be based on all graduate coursework in industrial engineering courses completed at Iowa State University (excluding IE 501, IE 697, and IE 699) at the time of the oral exam. Students must achieve a GPA of at least 3.40 in this coursework. The deadline of the IMSE Qualifying Exam (journal article submission deadline and oral exam) for direct entry Ph.D. students is before the sixth semester of attendance.

iii. Masters to Ph.D.
Students who begin their program having completed a master’s degree in Industrial Engineering at ISU in the IMSE department are considered Masters to Ph.D. students. The coursework performance assessment will be based on all graduate coursework in industrial engineering courses completed at Iowa State University (excluding IE 501, IE 697, and IE 699). Students must achieve a GPA of at least 3.40 in this coursework. The deadline for the IMSE Qualifying Exam (journal article submission deadline and oral exam) for masters to Ph.D. students is before the fourth semester as a Ph.D. student.

Every student, regardless of classification, may elect to take an “Early Qualifying Exam” providing the following conditions are met: 1) complete all coursework and achieve a GPA of 3.40 in coursework, as outlined by their classification and, 2) obtain approval from their major professor to take an early qualifying exam (this approval must be received from the student’s major professor).

B. Requirements for EVERY Ph.D. Classification
1. Satisfactory performance in the graduate-level industrial engineering coursework as outlined in the classification-specific requirements above.

2. Submission of a technical paper to a refereed journal. The student must complete an IMSE submission form and the major professor must complete an IMSE evaluation form. These forms are obtained from the Graduate Program Assistant. The deadline for submission and completion of these two forms is ten days prior to the date of the oral examination.

3. The oral exam date will be either the Thursday or Friday preceding the start of classes each semester (Fall and Spring semesters only). Once the specific date of the oral examination has been determined, the Graduate Program Assistant will email all QE candidates and begin scheduling exams. Ten days prior to the scheduled oral exam, students must supply: 1) the submitted journal article, 2) technical paper confirmation page/email from refereed journal, 3) QE-Submission Form [Student], and 4) QE-Evaluation Form [Major Professor]. These items are to be emailed to the Graduate Program Assistant.

4. The format for the oral exam is a 20-minute technical presentation with an additional ten minutes for questioning. The IMSE Graduate Committee will oversee this oral examination. No other individuals will be allowed to attend the exam. If the student’s major professor is on the IMSE Graduate Committee, the major professor will recuse him/herself from the proceedings.

C. QE Results
“Pass,” “Conditional Fail,” and “Fail” are the three possible results of the IMSE QE. Decisions will be made based on evaluation of the student’s performance during the examination, proof of journal article submission, and academic performance. Students will receive a decision letter from the
Graduate Program Assistant within one week of the oral exam. If a student earns a Conditional Fail rating, the decision letter will specify the appropriate course of action. The student will have one more opportunity to take the exam in order to obtain a Pass. Upon the second QE attempt the student must demonstrate they have met all conditions established in the decision letter. If the IMSE Graduate Committee determines the conditions have not been met, the student will receive a Fail. If a student earns a Fail rating they may, at the discretion of the IMSE Graduate Committee, be given another chance.

Ph.D. Preliminary Examination
The Preliminary Oral Examination is composed of two parts: (A) a written dissertation proposal and (B) a preliminary oral examination.

A. Dissertation Proposal
Two weeks prior to the preliminary oral examination, a dissertation proposal should be distributed to the student’s POS committee. At a minimum, the proposal should consist of the following components:
   I. Description of the research problem
   II. Review of related literature and current research on the topic
   III. Detailed description of the methodology that will be used
   IV. Preliminary results
   V. Schedule

B. Preliminary Oral Examination
The major professor and the POS committee examine the student’s dissertation proposal in depth. This exam also covers the coursework taken up to this point. Once a date and time has been confirmed by the student’s major professor and committee a conference room must be reserved through the Graduate Program Assistant and the corresponding Request for Preliminary Oral Examination eForm must be submitted. This form must be completed at least two weeks prior to the anticipated date of the preliminary oral examination. The preliminary oral examination must be passed at least six months prior to the expected date of the final oral examination. During the semester of a scheduled exam the student must be registered for a minimum of one credit hour of IE 699.

Ph.D. Dissertation
Dissertations must be prepared according to the Graduate College requirements. Per Department policy, the final copy of the thesis must be emailed to the Graduate Program Assistant when the student uploads the document to ProQuest.

Ph.D. Final Oral Examination
The dissertation must be distributed to members of the POSC at least two weeks prior to the final oral examination. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange a meeting time and place in agreement to all committee members. The examination is generally a defense of the dissertation; however, questions may be asked on specific coursework or areas of concentration. The student must be registered for a minimum of one credit hour of IE 699 during the semester in which the final oral examination is taken. For examinations to be valid, all members of the committee must be present throughout the entire scheduled period of the exam.

The Request for Final Oral Examination eForm is available on the Graduate College’s website and must be received by the Graduate College at least three weeks prior to the intended date of the exam, per the deadline established by the Graduate College. The student is responsible for contacting the Graduate Program Assistant to reserve a conference room. The student must provide their POS committee the
“Final Oral Exam paperwork packet” which will be available thirty minutes before the start of their exam. The Graduate Program Assistant will provide this paperwork to the student.

Attendance at Ph.D. Final Oral Examinations
Ph.D. students must attend a minimum of three Ph.D. final oral examinations prior to scheduling their own final oral examination.

A. Attending examinations within the IMSE Department
One week prior to a scheduled examination, the Graduate Program Assistant will email all IMSE students with a seminar flier containing the Ph.D. candidate’s abstract, biographical information, and exam date/time/location information. All interested students should inform the Graduate Program Assistant of their planned attendance.

Ph.D. students ONLY: Fifteen minutes prior to the start of the exam, students must check in with the Graduate Program Assistant and sign an Attendance Verification Form.

B. Attending examinations outside of the IMSE Department
Students may attend final oral examinations outside of the IMSE Department if there aren’t any IMSE Ph.D. final oral examinations scheduled. Prior to attending an examination in a different department the student must speak with the IMSE Graduation Program Assistant, otherwise the examination will not be counted towards their total.

Ph.D. Annual Reviews
Annual Reviews will be conducted in a two-part series: the student completes Part A and the major professor completes Part B. Both parts are due by the first working day in October. The survey will be conducted via Qualtrics (online survey tool) and the Graduate Program Assistant will email each party the appropriate survey link on September 1st (or first working day thereafter). If the surveys remain incomplete, the Graduate Program Assistant will send out reminder emails to both the major professor and the student. If either Part A or Part B are not received by October 1st (or the first working day in October), an “Adviser Hold” will be placed on the student’s academic records preventing them from registering for further coursework.

Residency Requirement
Ph.D. students must earn at least 24 semester credits during two consecutive semesters or during a continuous period including two semesters and a summer session. Of the 72 graduate credits required for a Ph.D., at least 36 credits, including all dissertation research credits, must be earned from Iowa State University under the supervision of the student’s POS committee.

Requirements for the Ph.D. Minor in Industrial Engineering
A student pursuing a Ph.D. degree in another major at Iowa State University may be eligible to pursue a minor in Industrial Engineering. The student must select at least four 500- or 600-level IE courses – including experimental courses but excluding independent study courses3. The POS committee must include a faculty member from the IMSE Department. The student must take the IMSE QE, on its regular offering. If the student has already taken and passed the preliminary oral examination in the primary major, they are not permitted to add a minor. The student wishing to pursue a minor in Industrial Engineering should consult with the DOGE of the IE program.

3 Cross-listed courses must be taken as IE courses. It is the student’s responsibility to check with their academic home department to ensure that cross-listed courses taken for the minor will satisfy the requirements for their major.
Additional Information

Registration Requirements

The student must be registered for all semesters in residence. This includes semesters in which they are (a) developing a thesis/dissertation, (b) scheduling the preliminary/final oral examination, or (c) receiving support from the IMSE Department.

Progress Evaluations

IMSE department and the ISU Graduate College will monitor each student’s progress toward their degree. If the GPA falls below a 3.00, the student will be given the opportunity to achieve a 3.00 in coursework the following semester. Failure to do so will result in a HOLD being placed on registration.

Information about Satisfactory/Fail Coursework

A. IE 501 – Graduate Seminar
IE 501 is required for all M.Eng., M.S., and Ph.D. students every semester. It introduces students to the research process and exposes them to state-of-the-art research presented by seminar speakers. Regular attendance is required for a “Satisfactory” grade. This course is graded as Satisfactory/Fail.

B. IE 590/690—Independent Study
Instructor and student together determine a study scope and student time expectations for an independent study course. Once the arrangement of the course has been established between the instructor and the student, the proposal is submitted to the Graduate Program Assistant who will forward the document to the IMSE Graduate Committee. The IMSE Graduate Committee evaluates and determines acceptance of the course for the student’s POSC. Normally a maximum of three credits of 590/690 courses are permitted on the student’s POSC. The proposal must include detailed time commitments, outcomes, and assessment methods. This course is graded as Satisfactory/Fail.

C. IE 697—Engineering Internship
A maximum of one Fall OR Spring semester combined with one summer is permitted during the academic year. This excludes a Fall/Spring combination and registration is permitted only with instructor permission. The aim of this course is for students to gain professional experience in an industrial setting to supplement the industrial engineering concepts learned in academic courses. This R-credit course does not carry numerical credit toward a student’s degree, and it is not a requirement of the curriculum/major. For explicit instructions regarding IMSE policies and procedures related to IE 697, please read the IMSE Graduate Student Engineering Internship instruction page. This course is graded as Satisfactory/Fail.

D. IE 699—Research
The number of credit hours taken in any particular semester is arranged in advance between the student and the instructor. The credits to be earned depends on the amount of work expected of the student, in accordance with the policy that some combination of teacher-student contact and outside work by the student involving at least three hours per week for the semester is required for each credit. For an M.S. degree a minimum of nine credit hours must be completed. For a Ph.D. degree a minimum of 24 credit hours must be completed. Expectations (including time commitment), outcomes, and assessment methods are discussed between the student and the research advisor. The final outcome of this course is development, submission, and oral defense of a thesis (M.S. student) or dissertation (Ph.D. candidate). Credits received for research cannot be used in computing the student’s GPA. This course is graded as Satisfactory/Fail.
Audit or Pass/Not Pass

**Audit:** Students planning to attend courses without a grade must register for the course and designate it as an “Audit.”

**Pass (P)/Not Pass (NP):** Students planning to attend courses and receive a P/NP must register for the course as a “Pass/Not Pass.”

Neither Audit nor P/NP courses may be used on a student’s POSC; however, if a student receives a grade of NP it is considered an “F.” If a grade of “NP” is earned in a P/NP course the student is not eligible to graduate until the course is completed with a “P” grade.

Dual-Listed Courses in Industrial Engineering

**M.Eng./M.S.:** No more than two dual-listed courses can be used to satisfy the M.Eng. or M.S. program requirements (concurrent masters degrees not included).

**Ph.D.:** No more than two dual-listed courses can be used to satisfy the Ph.D. degree program requirements. However, if the master’s degree was received at Iowa State University, up to two additional dual-listed courses beyond the master’s degree (for a total of four dual-listed courses) can be used on the student’s POSC.

Severance of Major Professor

Under normal conditions, major professors who leave Iowa State University through retirement or transfer to another position may not serve as the major professor or as a committee member. When a new POS committee is formed, retired professors cannot be chosen as committee members. However, under special circumstances, the student may petition the IMSE Graduate Committee to retain the major professor or committee member.
Employment at Iowa State University

Current law states that employers can hire only American citizens and aliens who are authorized to work in the United States. Under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Iowa State University must verify the employment eligibility of every employee hired. Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification) must be completed to document legally employable status. Individuals who are neither United States citizens nor U.S. permanent residents must report to International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO), 3248 Memorial Union, on or before their first day of work to complete Form I-9 (and submit such to Human Resource Services) to register for payroll and fringe benefits. The International Students and Scholars Office must endorse and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services must approve off-campus employment requests by F-1 visa-holders before they may legally work off-campus.

IMSE Teaching and Research Assistantships

1. Graduate assistants are expected to provide the following levels of effort:
   - ¼ time appointment - 10 hours per week
   - ½ time appointment - 20 hours per week
   - Assistantship offers will be made based on student performance and availability of funds

2. The following criteria must be satisfied before you can be employed by the IMSE department as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA):
   - You must be registered for classes for the semester employment begins (for example, if the assistantship begins in the fall you must register for that semester during the previous spring semester)
   - Graduate assistants must be enrolled full-time (minimum: 9 credit hours; maximum: 15 credit hours). International students in their last semester must maintain full-time status.
   - Per IMSE Department policy, ALL graduate assistants must begin their assistantship duties one week prior to the start of the semester and check-in with the Graduate Program Assistant to sign a Letter of Intent (LOI). Should the student neglect to check-in on the required date the LOI will not be processed resulting in a hold being placed on the student’s stipend and tuition scholarship.
   - TAs ONLY: attendance at the Center for Learning Excellence and Teaching (CELT) Teaching Symposium is required. If the student does not attend this training session the TA offer may be rescinded. Registration for this event is required and the event takes place prior to the start of the semester.

3. New TAs whose native language is not English are evaluated for their ability to communicate effectively in English and must take the Oral English Certification Test (OECT). The TA appointment is contingent upon satisfactory results on the OECT. Please review the following links as they relate to the OECT exam:
   - International Teaching Assistant Program: [http://cce.grad-college.iastate.edu/ita](http://cce.grad-college.iastate.edu/ita)
   - OECT Exam Information: [http://cce.grad-college.iastate.edu/ita/oect](http://cce.grad-college.iastate.edu/ita/oect)

4. Continuing Appointment
   - Satisfactory Academic Progress:
     - Students holding assistantships must maintain a GPA of at least 3.00
     - Graduate assistants must maintain full-time status (9-15 credit hours).
     - The student’s POSC must be submitted by the end of the second month of the second academic semester (or within three months of passing the QE for Ph.D. students).
   - Satisfactory Performance of Duties:
     - Continued appointment is contingent on satisfactory performance as determined by the student’s supervisor.
     - Students who are given an unacceptable rating will meet with a member of the IMSE Graduate Committee to discuss the shortcoming and may be dismissed.