Electrical Engineering

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Academic Programs

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The Electrical Engineering Department offers a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and supports the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering. Both undergraduate degrees are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, http://www.abet.org.

The mission of the Electrical Engineering Department is to educate students to achieve excellence in the discipline of electrical engineering and to teach them to apply their education to solve practical problems in a socially responsible way. Students are prepared for careers of service, leadership, and distinction in a wide range of engineering and other related fields using a participatory, learn-by-doing, and "hands-on" laboratory, project, and design centered approach. Students are encouraged to participate in lifelong learning as essential in the presence of the ever-increasing pace of technological change.

Diversity in the students, faculty and staff is embraced and enhances the quality and creativity of the campus experience and environment.

The primary educational objectives of the Electrical Engineering program are to prepare graduates to:

1. Excel in the electrical engineering profession;
2. Embrace life-long learning as a necessary component to remain current in their profession; and
3. Pursue graduate degrees for enhanced skills and opportunities.

The Electrical Engineering degree programs prepare graduates for distinguished practice in professional engineering; equipping students for pursuing engineering solutions to urgent problems while being responsibly aware of all implications. To that end, the curriculum provides a sound theoretical background along with current, practical engineering knowledge. Cal Poly's "learn by doing" philosophy is emphasized by integrating design throughout the curriculum in numerous design-centered laboratories that provide students with hands-on experiences in design synthesis, analysis, characterization, and verification.

The student begins the major in the first quarter with an orientation class and laboratory; and generally has one or more major courses each quarter until graduation. The many laboratory courses provide practical experience and lead logically from demonstration of theory into design applications.

During their junior and senior years, students choose technical electives to gain additional expertise in one or more areas of specialization within electrical engineering. These courses deal with

the development, design and application of circuits, electronic devices, computers, and systems for communication, controls, information processing and display, and system instrumentation. Senior courses in this area provide specialized preparation in a selected area such as active and passive network synthesis, advanced communications systems, computer system design, microelectronic circuit engineering, microprocessor systems applications, microwave engineering, photonics, and solid state devices.

Other courses deal with industrial process control systems, power electronics, and with generation, distribution, control and utilization of electric power. Senior elective courses in this area provide specialized preparation in a selected area such as advanced control systems, energy conversion, power system analysis, protection and stability, and solid state motor control.

Employers recognize that students who have completed such specialized technical courses are early contributors in the workforce. Students wishing to pursue graduate work may select appropriate senior courses in keeping with this goal.

In the required senior design project, students demonstrate their understanding of engineering knowledge and their ability to apply that knowledge creatively to solve practical problems.

Involvement in faculty research is possible for graduate students and outstanding undergraduate students. Research areas include computer-aided education, automotive and transportation applications, signal and image processing, electric vehicles, computer architecture and software systems, photonics, polymer electronics, power systems, power electronics, and electric power quality.

Students are encouraged to participate in professional organizations and clubs such as: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), IEEE Computer Society (IEEE-CS), IEEE Consumer Electronics Society (IEEE-CES), IEEE Power and Energy Society (IEEE-PES), Audio Engineering Society (AES), Cal Poly Robotics, Electric Vehicle Club, Renewable Energy Club, Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Women involved in Software & Hardware (WISH), Eta Kappa Nu (HKN), Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE), Student Electrical Engineering Council (SEEC), and the Amateur Radio Cub. The Electric Power Institute, sponsored by the university and underwritten by major utility companies and electrical equipment manufacturers, offers advanced seminars and lectures in the electrical power field and facilitates student and faculty interaction with industry.

Undergraduate Programs

BS Computer Engineering

This program is jointly offered by the Computer Science Department and the Electrical Engineering Department. For information regarding this program, please refer to Computer Engineering (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofengineering/computereengineering).

BS Electrical Engineering

Students are prepared for careers of service, leadership, and distinction in engineering and other related fields using a participatory, learn-by-doing, and "hands-on" laboratory, project, and design centered approach. Students are encouraged to participate in lifelong learning in the presence of rapid technological change.
Graduate Program
MS Electrical Engineering

General Characteristics
The Master of Science program in Electrical Engineering serves students and practicing engineers seeking:

- Job-entry education for the more complex areas of engineering, such as research and development, innovative design, systems analysis and design, and managerial engineering;
- Updating and upgrading opportunities for practicing engineers;
- Graduate preparation for further study in engineering, leading to the Doctor of Engineering or Ph.D. degree;
- A base which allows graduates to maintain currency in their fields.

Prerequisites
For admission as a classified graduate student, an applicant must hold a bachelor's degree in engineering or a closely related physical science with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units) attempted. Applicants for graduate engineering programs are required to submit satisfactory scores for the General (Aptitude) Test of the Graduate Record Examination. Foreign applicants must have satisfactory scores on the TOEFL and TWE exams. An applicant who meets these standards but lacks prerequisite coursework may be admitted as a conditionally classified student and must make up any deficiencies before advancement to classified graduate standing.

Information pertaining to specific requirements for admission to graduate standing (classified or conditionally classified) may be obtained from the Graduate Coordinator, Electrical Engineering Department.

Program of Study
Graduate students in this program must file a formal study plan with their advisor, department, college and university graduate studies office by no later than the end of the second quarter in the program. The formal program of study must include a minimum of 45 units (at least 28 of which must be at the 500 level and the remainder at the 400 level).

The broad curriculum requirements for the MS in Electrical Engineering are:

1. core of 16 units;
2. a minimum of 12 units of additional electrical engineering courses;
3. at least 17 units of approved electives;
4. at least 28 units of the 45 unit program at the 500 level.

Two program options are available for MS in Electrical Engineering students: a thesis program which requires coursework, a thesis and oral defense of thesis; or a nonthesis option which involves additional coursework and a comprehensive examination. The thesis option is strongly encouraged for all students.

Blended BS + MS Electrical Engineering Honors Program
The blended program is an honors program that provides a means for academically excellent students to complete the MS Electrical Engineering, with simultaneous conferring of both bachelor's and master's degrees. Students in the blended program are provided with a seamless process whereby they can progress from undergraduate to graduate status; embarking on their graduate coursework while they complete their undergraduate degree requirements.

Eligibility
Students majoring in BS Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering may be eligible to pursue the blended program after completing all required EE/CPE 300-level courses. Participation in the program is based on prior academic performance and other measures of professional promise. Students are selected by the Graduate Committee. See Graduate Programs (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/graduatededucation/#generalpoliciesgoverninggraduatestudiestext) for the minimum university eligibility criteria; contact the EE Department for specific program eligibility criteria.

Program of Study
A unique feature of the program is to allow the use of a common project for fulfillment of both the Master's Thesis (EE 599) and Senior Project (EE 461/EE 462 or EE 463/EE 464) degree requirement. As listed in the ABET engineering program accreditation criteria, all students must be prepared for engineering practice via a curriculum which culminates in a major design experience based on the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier coursework and incorporating engineering standards and realistic constraints. Therefore, all “Blended BS + MS program” students must have a master's thesis that specifically includes this major design experience requirement, in order to complete their undergraduate degree. A faculty advisor serves as both the thesis committee chairperson and the senior project advisor.

The unit requirements for either the BS or MS degree are unchanged in the blended program. When all requirements are met for both the undergraduate and graduate programs, both degrees are awarded at the same time. If a student fails to complete the MS program requirements, then the BS degree may be granted when all requirements for that degree are met.