

Utah State University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Requirements

1. A PhD student must form a **Supervisory Committee** before the end of the second semester of beginning the CEE graduate program. The Supervisory Committee shall consist of five members. Three members must be from within and at least one must be from outside the department. The Chairperson or Major Professor must be a CEE Faculty member. Adjunct faculty can serve on doctoral committees with the approval of the dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Upon recommendation of the department head, emeritus faculty may serve on supervisory committees, but may not chair new committees.

2. A PhD Student is required to maintain and complete, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, a total of 72 semester credits (course work plus research/dissertation) beyond the Bachelor's degree or 42 semester credits beyond a Master's degree (see Table 1). Only courses completed with a "C" or better grade can be counted towards the semester credit hour requirement on the program of study.

3. A PhD Student is required to complete between 33 to 48 semester credits beyond a Bachelor's degree or between 12 to 24 semester credits beyond a Master's degree of **course work** that are not dissertation research credits (see Table 1). The total number of course work credits is to be determined by the Student and Supervisory Committee Chairperson and approved by the Supervisory Committee. The typical course work credits will range from 21 to 24 credits.

4. A PhD student is required to complete between 24 to 39 Research/Dissertation credits beyond a Bachelor's degree or between 18 to 30 Research/Dissertation credits beyond a Master's degree (see Table 1). The total number of Research/Dissertation credits will be based on the course work of Item 3.

Table 1. PhD Credit Hour Requirements

	PhD Credit Hour Requirement	
	PhD beyond MS	PhD beyond BS
Coursework	12 - 24	33 - 48
Research/Dissertation	18 - 30	24 - 39
Total Credits	42	72

5. A **Program of Study** describing how items #2, #3 and #4 will be achieved, shall be created by the PhD Student and their Supervisory Committee Chairperson and approved by the Supervisory Committee before the end of the second semester of study.
6. A PhD Student must demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge in his/her area of specialization by passing a **Comprehensive Exam**. Refer to the CEE comprehensive exam policy document for details on the comprehensive exam policy and procedures.
7. A PhD Student is required to pass a **Dissertation Research Proposal Defense** after successfully passing the Comprehensive Exam. The defense shall consist of a written proposal and a presentation to the Student's Supervisory Committee of its contents. The Dissertation Research Proposal Defense can be held any time after passing the Comprehensive Exam but must be taken at least one year before the Dissertation Research Defense. Refer to the CEE PhD dissertation proposal guidelines for guidance on the content and format of the dissertation proposal.
8. A PhD student will be required to complete an **Application for Doctoral Candidacy** form and have it signed by the Supervisory Committee after successfully completing a Dissertation Research Proposal Defense.
9. The PhD Candidate will be required to pass a **Dissertation Research Defense** and produce a dissertation of their original, publishable dissertation research.