ECE Grad Student Orientation – M.S.

M.S. Program Coordinator

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M.S. Course plan compared to B.S.

• Majority (>90%) of BS degree & gpa is based on taking tests in letter grade classes as opposed to S/U graded courses.

• A larger portion (30-40%) of an MS degree can be made up of S/U courses – more project based rather than test based. Similar to how one learns on the job.

• Use your class choices to help you find project choices. For your non-thesis report, extend one of your projects to create a **useful** technical report. Report is structured like a test is structured.

• MS Coordinator is part of an MS Graduate team – the student interacts in a broader process then an individual advisor.
M.S. Student Context

• OSU ECE Graduate Program is increasing its number of M.S. students.
  – ECE Dept. is hiring new faculty specific for MS students.
  – ECE Students can propose their non-thesis topic (eg. from other depts).

• Many M.S. students finance their entire graduate program.
  – OSU/ECE financial support for grad students almost exclusively for PhDs.
  – Although some M.S. students will transition to OSU PhD program, majority will not be able to do so (various reasons).

• Your goal should be to complete you M.S. degree in a strategically timely manner to save you $$.
  Discuss some strategy today, more on webpage:
• http://www2.ece.ohio-state.edu/~biblyk/ms/ms.htm
M.S. Thesis – 30S Grad. Hrs.

~ 6 Letter-Grade courses (3 per semester), but less predictable completion schedule.

M.S. Thesis goes in a public archive database (OhioLink).

Almost always takes significantly longer than a non-thesis project.

Internships?

Might as well do a PhD!

Predictable Completion Schedule, even with more Letter-Grade courses (6+1 = 7).

Non-Thesis Report is Private.

Focus is on Project Skills and not on public Thesis Document creation.

Job Follow up.
## Agressive M.S. Completion Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Letter-graded ECE courses</th>
<th>Letter-graded technical Non ECE Courses</th>
<th>Individual studies (S/U grades)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 or 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3? or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3?</td>
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</tbody>
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30 credit hours to graduate with M.S.
M.S. Concluding Points

- 1\textsuperscript{st} Semester - aim to register for 4 to 5 Letter-Grade Grad courses
  - Maybe change one course to Ind. Study (faculty permission) by 3\textsuperscript{rd} week.  Non-Letter-Grade (S/U), more manageable.

- Your goal should be to complete you M.S. degree in a strategically timely manner to save you $\$.  
  - Need to understand the system constraints:  end game project is the critical path element.  
  - Interaction with Faculty in a project – be inventive.  
  - Curricular Practical Training Internship – hard to do with a MS thesis.

→ Questions? ←