**Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering**

Ph.D. students earn at least 60 post-baccalaureate credits, including at least 18 credits of dissertation work. In progressing toward this degree, the student must pass the following examinations:

1. A written departmental Graduate Study Qualifying Examination administered to all M.S. and Ph.D. students in their first year of work.
2. A comprehensive examination to be taken within two years of the qualifying examination and after completing two-thirds of their total coursework.
3. A final oral examination and defense of a dissertation based on the student’s research.

There is no foreign language requirement for the degree.

**Degree requirements—60 credits total:**

- ≤ 28 credits Doctoral Thesis (EELE 690), with a minimum 18 credits.
- ≥ 32 course credits that include:
  - 2 credits Scientific Communication and Proposal Development (ENGR 650), taken just before the comprehensive examination
  - ≥ 3 credits Advanced Math, Numerical Methods, or Statistics (committee approved)
  - ≥ 27 advisor-approved credits with all graded credits having earned a B or better.
  - ≤ 9 credits at 4xx level

**Notes:**

- All credits must also meet the following conditions:
  - Regardless of how many credits are applied from a previously earned master’s degree, the Ph.D. program of study must include at least 9 credits of major courses taken at Montana State University (ECE-specific exception granted by Grad School).
  - All Ph.D. credits no more than ten (10) years old at time of graduation (this limit does not apply to courses counted from a previously earned master’s degree).
  - ≤ 6 credits Independent Study (EELE 592).
  - ≤ 3 credits pass/fail, excluding dissertation.
  - ≤ 9 credits challenged.
  - No credits of 488, 489, 490, 492, 494, 498, or 589 are allowed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 650 Scientific Communication and Proposal Development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Math, Numerical Methods or Statistics Course (committee approved)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Thesis (EELE 690)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded Coursework (27 credits)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Graduate Courses or additional Doctoral Thesis credits</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
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