

## Years 1-3 (this is an estimate):

**Coursework** (minimum 30 credit hours required; you must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0):

- 18 credit hours of ECEN 5000-level or above courses are required.
  - Included in the 30 credits must be 2 credits of ECEN 5100 and 2 credits of ECEN 5110.
- The remaining 12 credit hours can be ECEN courses or technical courses in science, mathematics, or engineering. All of these should be at the 5000-level or above. This can include taking ECEN 5930 one (1) time.
- You must earn a grade of B- or better in all classes applying toward your degree.
  - Grades below B- still count toward your GPA., but not toward your degree.
- You must have no incomplete course work.
- Non-technical courses will not count toward your degree (i.e. telecomm, cybersecurity & eng. mgmt). If you are unsure if your course meets technical requirements, contact your advisor.
  - Generally, a 'technical' courses is one with technical undergraduate or graduate pre-reqs, and is not policy focused, but is math/engineering problem-solving focused.

Example: Term, Course #, Credits			

- **Establish your first support committee. This should include three mentors that can guide your early research.**

Chair:
Member 2:
Member 3:

- Pass **Preliminary Exam** (you have two attempts; this is only offered once per year).
- Submit [Transfer of Credit form](#) upon completion of preliminary exam (if applicable).
  - You can transfer 21 credits max; these must be approved by advisor, ECEE Grad. Director and Dean.
- Develop research/dissertation project & [enroll in dissertation hours](#) (ECEN 8990).

## Years 4-6\* (this is an estimate - if you are close to going past six years alert your advisor!):

- **Thesis/Dissertation Hours** (ECEN 8990) (30 credits total):

Example: Term, Course #,			

**Enrollment Requirements:** The minimum amount of credits to be enrolled full-time varies based on your PhD status (pre/post comps exam).

- You must be continuously registered for either 3 part-time status) or 5(full-time status) dissertation hours each fall and spring semester after passing the comprehensive exam and have at least 6 semesters of full-time registration on the Boulder campus (two part-time semesters = one full-time).
- Rules and regulations are subject to change.
- Have the Graduate School approve of your **Comprehensive Exam Committee** with GFAs & [Comprehensive Exam Form](#) (list committee below):

Chair	
Member	
Member	
Member	
Member	

- Pass **Comprehensive Exam**.
- Submit **Application to Candidacy Form** to Graduate Program Advisor.
  - Be admitted into candidacy .

**Final Semester Steps** (follow the [Graduate School deadlines](#); these cannot be altered):

- You must be registered as a full-time student.
- [Apply online to graduate](#).
  - If you are an international student in F-1 or J-1 status, ask an advisor in ISSS about immigration requirements for the semester following your defense.
- Have the Graduate School approve of your **Final Defense Committee** with GFAs & [Final Exam Form](#) (list committee below):

Chair	
Member	
Member	
Member	
Member	

- Successfully **defend your dissertation**.
- Have your department submit a **final grade card** for dissertation hours.
- **Submit dissertation & Thesis Approval Form**.
- Complete **Survey of Earned Graduates**.