UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Ph.D. PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE STUDY

September 2010
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1. INTRODUCTION

This document, also available at www.me.upenn.edu/current-students/doctoral/pdf/phd-handbook-10.pdf, describes the
guidelines for the Ph.D. program in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics (MEAM). Additional information is
available on the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) website: www.seas.upenn.edu/graduate/handbook. It is the
student's responsibility to be familiar with the rules, procedures, and requirements of MEAM, SEAS, and the University of
Pennsylvania. Advice and additional information may be obtained from your advisor, the Graduate Program Coordinator1, or the
Graduate Group Chair2.

Students who matriculated before September 2010 are subject to the policies that were in effect as of their matriculation date.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The graduate program in MEAM is administered by the MEAM Graduate Group. The MEAM Graduate Group is comprised of
the primary faculty members of MEAM as well as faculty from other departments and schools throughout the University. This
unique composition gives students the opportunity to work in emerging and interdisciplinary areas that are relevant to mechanical
engineering. The current members of the MEAM Graduate Group and their research areas are listed in Appendix E. Additional
information can be obtained from the Department’s website (http://www.me.upenn.edu/about-research/research-matrix.php).

All graduate programs in SEAS are administratively under the auspices of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs1, whose
activities with respect to graduate studies in MEAM are in conjunction with the recommendations of the MEAM Graduate Group
Chair.

3. ADVISORS

An advisor is appointed for each Ph.D. student by the Graduate Group Chair. The advisor works with the student to develop an
appropriate program of study and is responsible for monitoring the student's course plan and dissertation work.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

The objective of the doctoral program is to educate a cadre of highly competent researchers who will pursue careers in academia,
research, and technological leadership. The centerpiece of the doctoral program is dissertation research. Ph.D. students are
expected to spend most of their time and energy generating high quality, original research. The courses taken during a student’s
tenure at the University will be geared mostly towards providing the necessary background to conduct quality research and to
strengthen your knowledge. Each student’s professional reputation and, to some extent, that of the department, depend on
success in generating a high quality dissertation. Furthermore, the research grants that faculty receive and all other funding
available in the department for graduate students are closely tied to the department's research productivity.

Course Selection Approval
Graduate students in MEAM have a wide variety of interests, and the MEAM graduate program is designed to encourage these
interests. Some students prefer to take technical courses primarily within the Department; others desire to take a number of
courses in other engineering or science departments. The student must obtain his/her advisor's approval for any course selection.
First-year students must complete an advisor’s sign-off form. This form can be found in Appendix F and should be submitted
prior to registering for courses. A sample list of courses usually taken by MEAM doctoral students is available in Appendix A.

Typical Course Load
All students enrolled in a degree program are required to be continuously registered. Four courses per semester (including thesis
research, such as MEAM 999) is considered to be a normal, full-time load for all students. Students must consult with the
Graduate Group Chair if a deviation from the normal load is contemplated. Part-time students usually take one or, at most, two
courses per semester. MEAM 999 is the course number assigned to dissertation research. Several units of this course may be
taken simultaneously. The grading of MEAM 999 is done by the student's dissertation advisor. Only grades of "S" (satisfactory),
"U" (unsatisfactory) or "I" (incomplete) can be earned in this course.

Registration, Leave of Absence
Continuous registration is required for all graduate students unless a formal leave of absence is granted by the Dean of the
student’s school. A student who has reached dissertation tuition status will not be granted a leave of absence, except for military
duty, medical reasons, or in cases where the student receives a grant for dissertation research conducted abroad and the grant does

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3 Dr. Vijay Kumar, Room 470 Levine Hall (Tel. 215-898-3630, e-mail: kumar@seas.upenn.edu)
not include funds to pay home institutional fees. A student not in dissertation status who desires a leave of absence must submit a request to the Graduate Group Chair and to the Graduate Division Office.

Changes in Course Program
Students may add or drop courses without penalty in any semester if it is done by the deadline listed in the current graduate bulletin. The student must inform the advisor of the decision beforehand and receive his/her approval. However, international students must maintain full time status in accordance with the rules administered by the Office of International Programs.

Grades, Credits, and Academic Standing
The grading system is as follows: A (4.0), Excellent; B (3.0), Good; C (2.0), Fair; D (1.0), Below Average; F (0.0), Failure; and (I) Incomplete. A course in which an F was obtained must be taken again; however, the F remains on the student's record. Courses for which a passing grade was obtained cannot be taken again for credit.

Doctoral students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science are expected to maintain at least a B average (3.0) in their work. A student whose record falls below a minimum of a B average will be put on academic probation and may be required to withdraw; graduation requires a minimum of a B average (exclusive of dissertation credits). Requirements cannot be satisfied by auditing courses or receiving an incomplete (I) grade.

5. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
Detailed regulations and requirements concerning the degree are described in the current Graduate Student Handbook (http://www.seas.upenn.edu/graduate/handbook/index.php). It is the responsibility of the Ph.D. student to become familiar with all of the degree requirements in addition to those discussed in this document.

The Ph.D. requirements include the completion of a minimum of 20 course units of graduate level work beyond the undergraduate degree with a grade-point average of at least 3.0, satisfactory performance in the Ph.D. qualifying and dissertation proposal exams, presentation of a departmental seminar, completion of three course units of teaching practicum, and the submission and successful defense of an original and significant dissertation. Each course is worth 1 course unit, with the exception of research (MEAM 999) and independent study (MEAM 899) courses, which can range from 1 to 4 course units on approval of the advisor. The required 20 course units may include regular courses as well as research and independent study units. The milestones in the Ph.D. program are noted in Appendix B and described in detail in this document.

Core Requirements
All doctoral students are required to take the following:

• Three mathematics courses. The three mathematics courses must be selected from the following: ENM 510, ENM 511, ENM 600, ENM 601, and ENM 603. A student may take any graduate Engineering Mathematics (ENM) course or any graduate course offered by the Math Department with a petition approved by the Graduate Group Chair. It is recommended that ENM 510 and 511 be taken in the first and second semesters as they lay the necessary mathematical foundation for other MEAM/SEAS graduate courses.
• One course in continuum mechanics (MEAM 530)
• One in dynamics (MEAM 535)
• One in transport processes (MEAM 570)
• Six semesters of the MEAM seminar (MEAM 699)

Note: MEAM 530, 535, and 570 may be taken any time in the first three years of the Ph.D. program.

6. POLICY ON TRANSFER OF CREDIT UNITS EARNED AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS
A maximum of nine graduate-level course units (this is out of the 20 required) taken at another university may be accepted provided that the grade received in each course was at least a B subject to approval by the Graduate Group Chair and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in accordance with the rules of the University at the time of matriculation. The student who wishes such credit transfer must petition to the Graduate Group Chair and enclose with the petition the documents and information stated in Appendix D. In order to obtain credit for courses taken at other institutions the following steps must be taken:

• For each transfer course, obtain the course description and the title of the textbook prescribed for the course.
• Identify a professor who teaches a similar course at Penn. If a similar course is not offered at Penn, identify a professor whose areas of expertise are in the general area of the course to be transferred. The professor should certify that the course is of similar level to a graduate course offered at Penn or, if a similar course is not offered at Penn, that the course qualifies for
Penn students to take if it were offered here.

- Submit a petition on a standard form (Appendix D) to the Graduate Group Chair. Attach to the petition a copy of the transcript, the professor's certification, and documents and information noted in Appendix D.

7. INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study courses are important vehicles to accommodate special interests of the students that are not served through the regular courses. They create opportunities for mini-projects and a mentoring relationship between students and faculty. Independent study also can serve as a means students and faculty to lay a potential foundation for dissertation work prior to making a long-term commitment. The student should identify the topic and scope of the independent study in the semester prior to the one in which s/he intends to take on the independent study, and should identify a faculty advisor whose interests and expertise match the independent study topic.

Since independent studies are less structured than regular courses and typically do not come with strict deadlines, occasionally students tend to fall behind in their work. There is also the possibility of miscommunication between the student and the faculty on the objectives, extent, scope, and the grading method for the independent study.

The purpose of this policy is to set the rules for an independent study with the objectives of maintaining academic rigor and minimizing any potential for a miscommunication.

- An independent study course should require an effort comparable to that of a regular course, about 9 hours a week or a total of 126 hours per semester.
- The student should meet the faculty member administering the independent study (the advisor) on a regular basis, at least once a week. It is the student's responsibility to schedule these weekly meetings. Past experience indicates that failure to maintain regular contact with the student's advisor can lead to a less than satisfactory performance in the independent study course. The key to a successful independent study is a steady effort throughout the semester. The student should not expect to be able to cram a semester's work into a few days of intensive work at the end of the semester.
- Prior to the beginning of the semester in which the student contemplates taking the independent study, the student and his/her advisor should develop an independent study proposal. The first paragraph of the proposal should describe the objectives, scope, and content of the independent study. The second paragraph should state how the independent study will be evaluated and how the student will be graded. The document should be signed by both the student and his/her advisor, and it should be submitted to the Graduate Group Chair for approval before the beginning of the semester.
- At the conclusion of the independent study, the student should prepare a brief report specifying what material was covered during the independent study, which objectives were met, and which were not. In the event that objectives were not met, a clear explanation should be provided as to why such objectives were not met. This document should also be signed by the student and his/her advisor, and it will be included in the student's file.
- It is the student's responsibility to make sure that these guidelines are followed. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the student’s not receiving credit for the independent study.

8. TEACHING PRACTICUM

Participation of graduate students in the teaching mission of the department helps to develop teaching, presentation, leadership, and interpersonal skills while assisting the department in discharging its teaching responsibilities. All doctoral students are required to participate under faculty guidance in the teaching mission of the department. This requirement will be satisfied by completing three 0.5 course units of teaching practicum (MEAM 895). Each 0.5 course units of teaching practicum will consist of the equivalent of 10 hours of effort per week for one semester. In fulfillment of the teaching practicum requirement, students will perform various of the following duties, as appropriate: attend seminars emphasizing teaching and communication skills, lead recitations, lead tutorials, supervise laboratory experiments, develop instructional laboratories, develop instructional materials, and grade homeworks, laboratory reports, and exams. A teaching training seminar conducted the day before the first day of classes of the fall semester. Attendance is mandatory for all second year students. To the extent possible, students will participate in a broad range of teaching activities beyond grading. Some of the recitations will be supervised, and feedback and comments will be provided to the student by the faculty responsible for the course. At the completion of every 0.5 course unit of teaching practicum, the student will receive a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade and a written evaluation signed by the faculty member responsible for the course. The evaluation will be based on comments of the students taking the course and the impressions of the faculty in charge.

9. OBSOLETENESS

The Ph.D. program, culminating in a successful defense of the doctoral dissertation, must be completed within a period of 10 years from the year of matriculation as a graduate student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science of the University of
The qualifying examination is administered in the following manner:

1. By the end of his/her first semester, each full-time doctoral student will elect an independent study in the general area in which s/he wishes to pursue dissertation research. The independent study will be carried out during the second semester, and it will be mentored by a willing faculty advisor chosen by the student. The advisor must be a member of the MEAM Graduate Group. While the advisor need not be the student’s Ph.D. dissertation advisor, students are advised to choose faculty advisors who are likely to serve as their dissertation supervisor in the future.

2. The independent study course taken for the qualifying exam will follow the basic guidelines outlined in Section 7, with the additional condition that the independent study be research oriented. A research oriented independent study can consist of a critical review of a body of literature, a new contribution to address gaps in the existing literature, a formulation and possibly a solution of a new mathematical model, an experimental study, or a combination of the above. The independent study should afford the student the opportunity to carry out independent research.

3. Before the end of his/her first semester, the student will submit an independent study proposal to the Graduate Coordinator, who will convey it to the Graduate Group Chair. The independent study proposal should be brief (no more than two pages in length) and must be signed by the student and the advisor. It should be written in a way that is comprehensible to individuals other than the student and his/her advisor. The first paragraph of the proposal should state the scope and objectives of the study. The second paragraph should state how the objectives will be achieved. The third paragraph should state how the independent study will be evaluated and how the student will be graded. The fourth paragraph should state the deliverables at the end of the study. A list of pertinent references should be provided at the end of the proposal.

4. At the beginning of the second semester, the Graduate Group Chair will appoint a Qualifying Examination Committee for each student. The Committee will include the student's advisor, a committee chair, and a math examiner. The Committee will be chosen based on the area of the student's independent study. If desired, the student may choose to make a mid-semester brief oral presentation to the Committee to obtain feedback on research progress.

5. By the end of the last final examination of his/her second semester, the student will submit a hard copy report to his/her Qualifying Exam Committee that summarizes his/her independent study work. The student will also submit an electronic version of the report to the Graduate Coordinator, who will convey it to the Graduate Group Chair. The cover page of the report must indicate the date, time, and location of the qualifying exam. The paper should be written in the format of a journal paper, and it should be understandable by an educated audience not expert in the field. The due date of the papers will not be extended.

6. No later than a month after the last day of finals, the student will take the oral qualifying examination. Only students in good academic standing will be allowed to take the examination. "Good academic standing" implies that the student has a minimum grade point average of 3.0 at the time of the examination. In the examination, the student will present his/her paper to the Committee and respond to questions. The Committee may ask additional questions related more broadly to the independent study and on material covered in the student's courses (including mathematics courses). The math examiner (and any other committee members) may ask questions on mathematics relevant to the broad area of the independent study.

7. The Qualifying Exam Committee will review the student's record in coursework, his/her performance in the independent study, and his/her performance in the oral examination. Then, the committee chair, in consultation with other members of the committee, will make a recommendation to the Graduate Group Chair on the outcome of the qualifying examination. The Committee may also suggest a course plan or make other recommendations to help the student deal with any weaknesses in his/her background. In exceptional cases, the committee may recommend the submission of a revised paper and/or another presentation. The Graduate Group Chair will specify the deadline for the revised paper/presentation. In exceptional cases, the committee may recommend the submission of a revised paper and/or another presentation. The Graduate Group Chair will make the final decision as to whether the student passes the exam. The Graduate Group Chair will inform the student about the result and if applicable, will specify the deadline for any revised papers, presentations or other recommendations. Part-time students must take the Qualifying Exam after they have completed six courses, at the first time it is offered.

8. The qualifying examination must be completed no later than two months after the last day of final examinations in the spring semester.
9. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate the dates for the various presentations, reserve a room for the presentation of the material (with the assistance of the MEAM office staff) and notify his/her committee members of the time and place of the various presentations. If the deadlines stated here are not adhered to, an explanatory letter signed by the student and the advisor must be submitted to the Graduate Group Chair for approval.

11. THE DIRECT PATH TO THE Ph.D. FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT AN M.S.E. DEGREE

Students who have only a bachelor’s degree and wish to study for the Ph.D. are encouraged to register as Ph.D. students. However, they may obtain a Master’s degree if they so desire during their Ph.D. program. The students must inform the Graduate Group Chair, in writing of their intent with respect to the Master's degree.

12. OBTAINING AN M.S.E. DEGREE

The master and doctoral programs have different objectives. An M.S.E. degree will not be automatically granted to a Ph.D. student upon the completion of 10 course units. Doctoral students who desire to obtain an M.S.E. degree at some point along their doctoral studies must petition the Graduate Group. The Graduate Group or its designee will review the petitioner's records and determine whether the granting of the M.S.E. degree is appropriate. Typically, M.S.E. degrees are awarded to Ph.D. students at the end of their third year at Penn.

13. DISSERTATION

Several recognized paths are available to the student when choosing a dissertation topic. Often the topic will be the natural result of sponsored research the student may be working on. Sometimes a particularly challenging problem at the student’s place of employment will form the foundation for a dissertation. Regardless of the route by which a dissertation topic is chosen, a student must have a faculty member willing, by mutual agreement, to act as a dissertation advisor. It is essential that the student realize that the dissertation is the culmination of years of study and is the distinguishing feature of the Ph.D. degree. Clearly, dissertation topics and advisors should be chosen with care and deliberation. The student should feel free to discuss possible topics and dissertation supervision with any and all MEAM faculty members.

In consultation with the advisor, the Graduate Group Chair will appoint a Dissertation Committee for each student. The Committee must be composed of at least three members, including the advisor and the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair must be a member of the MEAM Graduate Group and cannot be the student's advisor. Additional committee members may be from disciplines related to the student's research topic. The Committee may include members who are not on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, subject to approval by the Graduate Group Chair, as long as at least three members of the Committee are faculty of the University of Pennsylvania.

A full-time Ph.D. student must prepare and present his/her dissertation proposal to the Dissertation Committee by the end of the third year of study. At least two weeks before the dissertation proposal presentation, the student will submit a hard copy of the proposal to his/her Dissertation Committee. The student will also submit an electronic version of the proposal to the Graduate Coordinator, who will convey it to the Graduate Group Chair. The cover page of the proposal must indicate the date, time, and location of the dissertation proposal presentation. Any extensions to the proposal deadline must be approved by the Graduate Group Chair. At the dissertation proposal meeting, the candidate will present the proposed research topic, scope, and method of research, and partial results (if any). This preliminary meeting is intended to be helpful in discussing the student's planned program, scope of work, and method of approach, and in providing proper guidance. The committee often makes constructive suggestions for strengthening the research and the eventual dissertation. The Dissertation Committee Chair will inform the Graduate Group Chair and the student, in writing, on whether the dissertation Committee has approved the proposal and what its recommendations are on further work. If the proposal is not approved by the Dissertation Committee, the student must make the necessary improvements, resubmit, present the new proposal, and earn its approval. The proposal must be completed at least six to twelve months prior to the final dissertation defense. A Ph.D. student is advanced to Ph.D. candidacy after successfully presenting the dissertation proposal.

To avoid any misunderstanding, it is emphasized that the dissertation itself is not approved at the dissertation proposal meeting; only the area of the research topic and a general plan of the dissertation are approved. Furthermore, the advisor and the student may ask the committee to reconvene at other times if they feel that there is further benefit to be gained from discussing the research topic. The student is also encouraged to consult frequently with the Dissertation Committee members and to inform them of his/her progress.

Any significant changes to the proposed research must be presented to and approved by the thesis committee. Changes to the composition of the thesis committee may be requested by the student and advisor. In such cases, the Graduate Group Chair may appoint new members to the committee.
When the dissertation advisor is satisfied with the dissertation presented to him/her by the student, copies of the dissertation are given to the members of the Dissertation Committee for study and critique. Normally, the Dissertation Committee members require three or four weeks to examine a dissertation, and the student should recognize this when attempting to meet deadlines. The Dissertation Committee may declare itself sufficiently satisfied with the dissertation to permit the scheduling by the dissertation advisor of the dissertation defense. If the committee feels that major modifications are in order, additional work by the student and revision of the dissertation may be required before a defense can be scheduled.

The dissertation defense by the doctoral candidate is given at a meeting open to the public. The announcement of the defense to the public must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator for posting at least three weeks prior to the presentation. After the presentation by the candidate, the Dissertation Committee will question him/her on several aspects of the work. Additional questions or comments from others attending the presentation will then be solicited. The general public will then be asked to leave the room prior to a final session at which more questions may be asked by the Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee will decide on acceptance or the non-acceptance of the dissertation at the conclusion of this meeting.

Once the dissertation has been accepted by the Dissertation Committee, the student will submit the final version of the thesis to the advisor(s) as stated in Appendix C. The student will submit the thesis to the Chair at least two weeks prior to the university's deadline for Ph.D. thesis. After examining the thesis, the Graduate Group Chair may either approve and sign on the thesis or return the thesis to the student requesting additional modifications.

It is noted and emphasized that the dissertation must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the rules and schedules of the School of Engineering and Applied Science of the University of Pennsylvania. The format is explained in the booklet "Doctoral Dissertation Manual" available at: http://www.upenn.edu/provost/dissertation_manual. In addition to the two unbound copies of the dissertation and other items, which need to be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research, two or more hardbound copies must be submitted to the Graduate Group Chair and advisor(s) as stated in Appendix C. Failure to follow the above schedule and requirements will result in a delay in awarding the degree.

All dissertations must be freely publishable and the contents cannot be restricted from dissemination to the community at large by the candidate's place of employment or the sponsoring agency, the government, or any person. Any computer source code which constitutes a portion of the thesis (with the exception of readily-available commercial software) must be available to the community at large. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the above requirements are duly considered in the planning and execution of the research program and in the presentation of the final document.

14. SEMINAR PRESENTATION REQUIREMENT

As a part of their degree requirements, all doctoral students must present a departmental seminar on their research prior to their dissertation presentation. This seminar must be given at least one semester before the anticipated graduation date.

The Ph.D. seminar requirement serves the following purposes:

- The seminar gives the student an opportunity to practice presenting technical material and "think on his/her feet" while responding to questions from the audience. Similar seminars are often required by prospective employers both in academia and industry as a part of the interviewing process.
- The seminars help inform other students and faculty about ongoing research. These should be of particular interest to first year graduate students who are trying to identify relevant research areas.
- The seminars may help foster intellectual interactions in the department and the formation of a scholarly community. Comments and questions during the presentation may provide constructive suggestions to the presenter regarding how to improve his/her thesis while there is still time to do so.
- The presenters may include in their CV the fact that they have given a seminar at Penn.

No Ph.D. student will be able to graduate without fulfilling the Ph.D. seminar requirement. Ph.D. seminars are scheduled during the summer at the usual seminar time and receive public notice similar to that of other departmental seminars. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule a date for his/her seminar with the Graduate Coordinator for a time when his/her advisor and preferably the entire Dissertation Committee is available. Students should be aware that the seminar calendar is typically finalized before the beginning of each semester. Ph.D. students who wish to give a talk during any given summer will need to fix the date at least a month prior to the beginning of the semester. Typically, the seminar should be presented no later than the end of the fourth year after matriculation.

The presenter should prepare his/her seminar carefully, keeping in mind that he/she is going to talk to an intelligent audience with diverse backgrounds, some of whom may not be familiar with the speaker's specific research area. The student should have his/her advisor(s) critique the visuals and the presentation before the public presentation. A good introduction which gives background information, context, and motivation is a good idea. To allow ample time for discussion, the talk should not exceed...
40 minutes. The presenter should anticipate and be ready to answer questions from the audience. During the discussion period, in order to encourage student questions, students in the audience will have been given a chance to ask questions before the faculty members do so. After the presentation, the student’s adviser provides the student with feedback including comments on both strengths and areas for possible improvement. The presentation may be videotaped to give the student an opportunity to see himself/herself the same way the audience have seen him/her.

15. ATTENDANCE AT DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS AND THESIS PRESENTATIONS

The attendance of all full-time graduate students at departmental seminars is mandatory. There are many good reasons why students should attend departmental seminars even when the seminars are not directly linked to their area of research. For example:

- The seminar provides an opportunity to learn about the state-of-the-art in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics.
- The seminar provides an opportunity for the student to get acquainted with people from other institutions and companies and get a birds-eye view of the culture at other institutions. On more than one occasion, during job interviews, interviewers have been known to mention a visit to Penn and delivering a seminar. The student would like to be in a position to comment on that particular seminar and state how enjoyable it was.
- The departmental seminars are one of the few opportunities there are to get together as a department. It is hoped that a full attendance at these seminars will help create departmental spirit and cohesiveness.

Seminar course
The seminar course has been established so that students get recognition for their seminar attendance as well as to encourage students to attend. There will be no quizzes, tests, or homeworks. The course will be graded S/U. In order to obtain a satisfactory (S) grade, the student will need to attend more than 70% of the departmental seminars. For example, in a term in which 12 seminars are given, the student will need to attend at least 9 seminars to obtain a satisfactory grade. Participation in the seminar course will be documented and recorded in the student's transcript. In order to obtain their degree, doctoral candidates will be required to accumulate 6 seminar courses (beginning in the fall of 2001). Under special circumstances, i.e., in a case of a conflict with a course, the student may waive the seminar requirement for a particular semester by petition to the Graduate Chair. Part-time students are exempted from the seminar attendance requirement although they are encouraged to attend the seminars.

17. SUMMER STUDIES

There are several possibilities for scholarly activities by graduate students at the University during the summer which include:

- Independent study and research (MEAM 899 or 999) with an instructor willing to act as a supervisor during the summer.
- Course work outside SEAS, as well as a limited number of regular courses occasionally offered by some SEAS departments. The advisor, in consultation with the Graduate Group Chair, must approve summer school courses.

Full-time students supported by research grants are expected to be in residence for the summer. Students who wish to take summer courses must obtain approval from their faculty advisor prior to registration. Questions on summer session registration should be referred to the Graduate Coordinator.

17. RECORDS

The official graduate student records are kept in 111 Towne Building and transcripts can be viewed on Penn InTouch at https://sentry.isc.upenn.edu/intouch/. Graduate students are encouraged to periodically check the accuracy of their records and to bring any discrepancies to the attention of the Graduate Group Chair.

18. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for graduate students is made available through a number of sources such as funds from SEAS, funds from MEAM, research grants of the faculty, and industrial sources, where research support is predominant among all. A given faculty member plays the primary role in selecting a student for a research fellowship supported by his/her grant. Appropriate committees will choose students for other scholarships and internal fellowships. The Graduate Group Chair formally makes all fellowship appointments. Most sources of funding, research grants in particular, include support for the summer months. Students are expected to work full time on research in the summer months during which they are supported.
19. THE GRADUATE ENVIRONMENT

The size of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics fosters a close interaction between the graduate students and the entire faculty. This enhances the quality of student-faculty communications and enriches the academic environment to benefit both learning and discovery.

Apart from offering advising, seminars and meetings to introduce incoming students to faculty research, and informal meetings with the Department Chair and Graduate Group Chair to solicit student input and exchange information, the Department strongly supports the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association (MEGA). MEGA is a student-run association that represents the entire graduate student community in MEAM, and organizes both social and technical events. A chosen representative of MEGA becomes a member of the Graduate Group of the department, with voting rights, and serves as a communication channel for information between the Graduate Group and students.

Every effort is made to create an environment of scholarship, creativity and learning, which is the very essence of graduate study.
## APPENDIX A
### A Sample Ph.D. Program in Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thermo/Fluids</th>
<th>Mechanics of Materials</th>
<th>Mechanical Systems</th>
<th>Bio mechanics</th>
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### 1st Year - Fall

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<td>MEAM 530 Continuum Mechanics (R)</td>
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<td>MEAM 530 Continuum Mechanics (R)</td>
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<td>MEAM 535 Advanced Dynamics (R)</td>
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<td>MEAM 555 Membranes and Polymers in Biology (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 519 Introduction to Elasticity (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 540 Optimal Design of Mechanical Systems (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 570 Introduction to Transport Phenomena (R) or MEAM 554 Mechanics of Materials (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM elective or MEAM 899 Independent Study (E)</td>
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### 1st Year - Spring

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<td>MEAM 527 – Finite Element Analysis (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 513 Linear Control Systems (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 527 – Finite Element Analysis (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 632 – Plasticity (E)</td>
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<td>MEAM 520 Robotics and Automation (E) Or MEAM 527 Finite Element Analysis (E)</td>
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<td>Departmental Seminars (R)</td>
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E → elective
R → required
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<th>Bio mechanics</th>
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<td>MEAM 535 Advanced Dynamics (R)</td>
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<td>MEAM 570 Introduction to Transport Phenomena (R)</td>
<td>MEAM 535 Advanced Dynamics (R)</td>
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<td>MEAM 575 Micro and Nano Fluidics (E) or MEAM 572 Micro/Nano Energy Trans. (E)</td>
<td>MEAM 570 Introduction to Transport Phenomena (R)</td>
<td>MEAM 530 Continuum Mechanics (R)</td>
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A Sample Ph.D. Program in Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics (continued)

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<td>MEAM 575 Micro and Nano Fluidics (E) or MEAM 572 Micro/Nano Energy Trans. (E)</td>
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## APPENDIX B

### Time Line for Ph.D. Students

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<th>By the End of Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Define an Independent Study Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Submit A Paper Summarizing The Independent Study By The Last Day Of Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+one month</td>
<td>Make An Oral Presentation of The Independent Study Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Register for First Teaching Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Select a Thesis Committee</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Register for Second Teaching Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Present and Obtain Approval for a Thesis Proposal</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Register for Third Teaching Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Present a Departmental Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>TD-3weeks</td>
<td>Submit a Dissertation Draft to your Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD</td>
<td>Submit a Revised Dissertation Draft to Your Dissertation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD</td>
<td>Publicize for Thesis Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD-4 weeks</td>
<td>Defend Thesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>GD</td>
<td>Make Corrections and Modifications to Thesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>GD</td>
<td>Submit a Copy of the Thesis to the Graduate Group Chair for Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD</td>
<td>Submit Final Thesis to the Graduate School</td>
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<td>Graduate</td>
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**TD** → thesis-defense date  
**GD** → graduation date
APPENDIX C

Hard Cover Instructions
for M.S.E. and Ph.D. Thesis

Guidelines:

In addition to the unbound copies that must be given to the School of Arts and Sciences, one hardbound copy of each Ph.D. thesis must be submitted to the Graduate Group Chair and one hardbound copy must be submitted to each of the student’s advisor.

There is a charge of $25.00 per copy. Please check with the Graduate Program Coordinator for more information about hard binding your thesis or dissertation.

Ph.D. dissertations are to be bound in a black cover with gold letters.

The lettering on the front should look like the following example:

Alfred E. Neuman

Design Optimization and Control of a Multi-robot System to Study the Size-Dependent Effects in the Mechanics of Muscle Cells Flowing Through Heated Micro Conduits

Ph.D. Dissertation
Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics
University of Pennsylvania
2010
GRADUATE TRANSFER OF CREDIT PETITION

TO: SEAS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

FROM: ____________________________  PENN ID #: ____________________________

DEPT: ____________________________

DATE: ____________________________

Include with this petition, course numbers and descriptions from the appropriate bulletin listing and a final transcript. A maximum of two courses may be transferred to the Master's program or a maximum of nine to the Ph.D. program if approved. Courses counted towards an undergraduate degree will not be considered for graduate credit unless in an approved submatriculation program.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT TO:  □ Master's program  □ Ph.D. program

FROM WHICH UNIVERSITY: ______________________________________________________

Please list courses to be transferred and SEAS equivalent if applicable:

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<td>9)</td>
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Adviser's Approval  ____________________________  Date  ____________________________

Graduate Group Chairman  ____________________________  Date  ____________________________

□ Approved  □ Disapproved

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  ____________________________  Date  ____________________________
APPENDIX E
MEAM Graduate Group Members

Paulo E. Arratia (parratia@seas.upenn.edu), Assistant Professor. Micro- and nano-fluidics, complex fluids, hydrodynamic instabilities, swimming & locomotion, rheology, and soft-condensed matter.

P. S. Ayyaswamy (ayya@seas.upenn.edu), Asa Whitney Professor of Dynamical Engineering. Phase change heat and mass transfer processes, bioheat/mass transfer: gas embolism, targeted drug delivery, and arc-plasma heat transfer.

John L. Bassani (bassani@seas.upenn.edu), Richard H. and S. L. Gabel Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Chair. Plastic deformation of crystals, atomic/continuum property relationships, interface mechanics, fracture mechanics, material stability at large strains, adhesion, mechanics of living cells.

Haim H. Bau (bau@seas.upenn.edu), Professor and Undergraduate Group Chair. Micro and nano fluids, nanotechnology, lab on chip technology, diagnostic devices for point of care, fluid and particle motion under the action of electric and magnetic fields, and bifurcation and instability phenomena in and feedback control of flows.

George Biros (biros@seas.upenn.edu), Adjunct Associate Professor. Computational science and engineering, optimization algorithms, inverse problems, computational fluid mechanics, integral equations, fast multipole methods, parallel and scientific computing.

Robert W. Carpick (carpick@seas.upenn.edu), Professor. Experimental nanomechanics, nanotribology (friction, adhesion, lubrication, wear), and surface science. Development, characterization, and applications of materials and devices at the nanoscale including micro/nanoelectromechanical systems (MEMS/NEMS). Development and application of advanced scanning probe microscopy tools.

Stuart Churchill (churchil@seas.upenn.edu), Carl V. S. Patterson Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Combustion, rate processes and correlation, the prediction of turbulent flow and convection.

Dennis E. Discher (discher@seas.upenn.edu), Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Stem cell mechanics, single molecule mechanics, statistical mechanics of networks and complex fluids.

David M. Eckmann (David.Eckmann@uphs.upenn.edu), Horatio C. Wood Professor of Anesthesiology & Critical Care. Experimental and computational biofluid dynamics, interfacial fluid mechanics, molecular mechanics of cellular activation and biological adhesion to vascular tissue, biomimetic materials and targeted drug delivery.

Dawn M. Elliott (delliott@mail.med.upenn.edu), Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Bioengineering. Orthopaedic biomechanics of the intervertebral disc; anisotropic, nonlinear, and viscoelastic biomechanics; models of disc degeneration; structure-function of the disc.

Howard H. Hu (hhu@seas.upenn.edu), Professor. Numerical simulations of complex flows with multiphase and polymeric fluids, particulate flows, flows in microfluidic devices, electrokinetic phenomena, hydrodynamic interfacial instability.

Daniel E. Koditschek (kod@seas.upenn.edu), Alfred Fitler Moore Professor and Chair of Electrical and Systems Engineering. Robotics, computational neuromechanics, dynamical systems theory applied to design of intelligent machines and their control.

Katherine J. Kuchenbecker (kuchenbe@seas.upenn.edu), Skirkanich Assistant Professor of Innovation. Haptics for teleoperation, virtual environments, and robotic manipulation, with application to robot-assisted surgery, medical simulation and training, rehabilitation, exploration, design, mobile computing, and education.

Vijay Kumar (kumar@seas.upenn.edu), UPS Foundation Professor and Deputy Dean for Education. Robotics, multi-vehicle control, dynamical systems, systems biology.

Noam Lior (lior@seas.upenn.edu), Professor. Energy conversion, advanced power generation, global warming alleviation, solar energy, sustainable energy and water desalination development and sustainability science, combustion, water desalination, materials processing.

Jennifer R. Lukes (jrlukes@seas.upenn.edu), Associate Professor and Graduate Group Chair. Nanoscale thermal, fluid, and mass transport; molecular dynamics simulation; laser-based materials characterization; field-directed patterning for nanofabrication; micro- and nanoscale engineering.

Robert L. Mauck (lemauck@mail.med.upenn.edu), Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Bioengineering. Biomechanics of tissue engineered musculoskeletal tissues, Bioreactor development for mechanical stimulation, Mechanobiology of cells and tissues, Fabrication and modeling of hydrogels and nanofibrous scaffolds.

Charles J. McMahon, Jr. (cmcmahon@lrsm.upenn.edu), Professor Emeritus, Materials Science and Engineering. Mechanisms of intergranular embrittlement and fracture in high-strength structural materials, especially as related to environmental effects. Current interests are dynamic embrittlement in nickel and copper-based alloys and in steels.
George J. Pappas (pappasg@grasp.upenn.edu), Joseph Moore Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering. Hybrid systems, hierarchical control systems, embedded systems, nonlinear systems, geometric control theory, robotics, unmanned aerial vehicles.

Gianluca Piazza (piazza@seas.upenn.edu), Assistant Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering. Micro/nanoElectroMechanical systems (MEMS/NEMS), piezoelectric materials, wireless transducers, sensors and actuators, biochemical detectors, micro/nanofabrication techniques.

Pedro Ponte Castañeda (ponte@seas.upenn.edu), Professor. Nonlinear composite and polycrystalline materials, smart materials, microstructure evolution and localization in manufacturing processes, mechanics of polymers, fracture mechanics, nonlinear variational principles in mechanics.

Prashant Purohit (purohit@seas.upenn.edu), Assistant Professor. Rod theories for DNA and biopolymers, mechanics of subcellular organelles, mechanics at the bio-nano interface, martensitic phase transitions in solids.

Talid R. Sinno (talid@seas.upenn.edu), Associate Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Computational materials science, multiscale modeling and simulation, nucleation and aggregation phenomena in electronic materials and complex fluids.

Louis J. Soslowsky (soslowsk@mail.med.upenn.edu), Fairhill Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Professor of Bioengineering and Director of Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders. Orthopaedic biomechanics and functional tissue engineering; structure-function studies of tendons and ligaments; models of tendon injury, repair, and healing; shoulder joint mechanics.

Camillo J. Taylor (cjtaylor@central.cis.upenn.edu), Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science. Reconstructing and rerendering 3D scenes from 2D images and vision guided robotic systems.

Karl T. Ulrich (ulrich@wharton.upenn.edu), CIBC Professor of Operations and Information Management (Wharton School). Product design, product development, innovation, technology development, personal transportation, environmental issues.

Vaclav Vitek (vitek@lrsm.upenn.edu), Professor of Materials Science and Engineering. Computer modeling of the structure and properties of grain boundaries, metal-metal and metal-ceramic interfaces, dislocations and other lattice defects.

Beth A. Winkelstein (winkelst@seas.upenn.edu), Associate Professor of Bioengineering and Neurosurgery. Spine biomechanics; modeling & experimental methods in subfailure mechanics; joint mechanics; mechanical modulation of pain and cellular dysfunction; models of ligament & nerve injury.

Mark Yim (yim@grasp.cis.upenn.edu), Associate Professor, Gabel Family Term Junior Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Undergraduate Curriculum Chair. Modular self-reconfigurable robotics, virtual reality (haptics), meso-scale devices (typically larger than MEMS).

APPENDIX F

Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics
Worksheet for Course Registration

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Year Matriculated:____ Degree program:_____ (Ph.D./M.S.E.) Status: ________ (Full-time/Part-time)

Concentration Area: __________________________________________________

Proposed Thesis Topic and/or Title (if applicable):
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

PROPOSED COURSES OF STUDY FOR (TERM/s) ______ and ______

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Additional notes (if any):
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Student’s Signature ___________________________ Date __________

Required only for first-year Masters and PhD students

“I have met with the student and discussed the course plan for the term(s) indicated above.”

Advisor’s Signature ___________________________ Date __________
# Faculty Section Numbers

MEAM 899 (PhD Independent Study) / 999 (PhD Research) Section Numbers

597 (MSE Thesis Research) 599 (MSE Independent Study)

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