

Doctor of Philosophy – Electrical Engineering Admission to the Major

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Applicants may be admitted as a regular or provisional status student. Qualified applicants who are not admitted can take graduate courses as a non-degree seeking graduate student. Up to 15 UNLV credits taken as a non-degree seeking graduate student at UNLV can be applied towards a PhD degree program in electrical and computer engineering. Potentially, nine graduate credits taken at another regionally accredited university may be transferred in the PhD degree program at UNLV. At most, only 15 credits of a combination of UNLV and non-UNLV course credits, within the constraints above, may be applied to the PhD program. Courses with a grade less than B (3.0) will not be applied to the PhD program. Further, the courses must not have been or will be applied to different degree program. Note that informal course credits will not be transferred into a PhD degree program. Informal courses such as Graduate Independent Study and Seminar taken as a non-degree seeking student cannot be applied towards a program degree in ECE. Non-degree seeking students can count Electrical & Computer Engineering Graduate Special Topics towards the program degree as long as they adhere to the conditions of the particular program option regarding informal course credits.

To be considered for admission an applicant must:

1. Submit GRE scaled and percentile scores in quantitative, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and have obtained the following minimum relative percentile comparison rank of 75 in the Quantitative section, 20 in the Verbal Reasoning section, and 20 in Analytical Writing. Please note that GRE scores will only be considered valid if taken within five years prior to the time of admission and are recognized by the GRE examination board. Official scores must be obtained from an official GRE provider. The GRE requirement can be waived under the circumstances listed in the GRE Waiver section.
2. Submit a completed application form and official transcripts of all college level work to the Graduate College. Submit an additional set of transcripts of all college-level work directly to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
3. Submit a one page written statement of purpose indicating the applicant's interests, motivations, and objectives. In the statement of purpose, the applicant must explicitly identify his/her areas of interest from the following list of areas offered at UNLV in the ECE Department: Communications, Computer Engineering, Control Systems, Electromagnetics and Optics, Electronics, Power Systems, Signal Processing, and Solid State Materials and Devices (which includes Nanotechnology). Applicants are required to account for all time beyond the B.S. degree indicating how they have developed professionally. Applicants transferring from other graduate programs without obtaining an M.S. degree must justify why they are leaving that

program to join our graduate program. Applicants receiving grades less than B in a graduate course elsewhere may not be admitted to the graduate program without a well justified explanation. Poor performance in course work in the program that the student is transferring from can be a cause for denial of admission. It will be the graduate committee's discretion whether to allow or deny admission.

4. Submit three letters of recommendation (signed and dated) concerning the applicant's potential for succeeding in the graduate program directly to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Letters of reference may be electronically uploaded in the online admissions application process. If the student received a M.S. degree in electrical or computer engineering at UNLV, then only one letter of recommendation is required, and it must come from the candidate's faculty advisor who should be the student's thesis committee chair. If the applicant has attended a university or is currently enrolled in a program beyond the M.S. degree, then at least one letter of recommendation should be solicited from that university or program and two from the university in which the M.S. degree was received. One of the three letters should be written by your thesis advisor commenting on your background and your thesis research. If the applicant has been out of school for an extended period of time, then letters should be solicited from the professional community who can comment on the applicant's technical background and/or from the applicant's most recent academic institution. Letters of recommendation written beyond a six-month period prior to applying for admission to our graduate program will not be accepted. Strong letters of recommendation illustrate technical talent and professional accomplishments beyond the grade point average or course grade. The graduate committee is interested in the applicant's technical, conceptual, verbal, ethical and social skills. The graduate committee is interested in the applicant's ability to perform research with evidence to substantiate claims made. Note that letters from professors that casually know you will not help you in the admission process.
5. Before international applicants can be considered for admission, the Graduate College requires that all international applicants take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and obtain a minimum score of 550 or 85 on the Michigan Test. Students whose first language is not English may be required to take and pass the English as a Second Language Placement Test upon arrival at UNLV. If necessary, they will be required to take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at UNLV.
6. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.
7. Application deadlines are February 1st for admission in the fall of the same year and October 1st for admission in the spring of the subsequent year.

Post-Master's Track

1. Have a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in electrical engineering or computer engineering or a closely related field with an M.S. thesis component. The M.S. thesis must be completed prior to admission. Potential candidates applying to the program based on a course only option or a project option will not be admitted. (Applicants who possess a bachelor's degree in a closely

related discipline, such as physics or mathematics, may be admitted on conditional and/or provisional status. These students will be required to complete certain undergraduate and/or graduate courses before they can attain regular full graduate standing status. The graduate committee determines these courses on an individual basis.)

2. Have a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.20 (A = 4.00) for their M.S. degree and a 3.00 for their B.S. degree.

Post-Bachelor's Track:

1. Have a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in electrical engineering or computer engineering or a closely related field. (Applicants who possess a bachelor degree in a closely related discipline, such as physics or mathematics, may be admitted on conditional and/or provisional status. These students will be required to complete certain undergraduate and/or graduate courses before they can attain regular full graduate standing status. The graduate committee determines these courses on an individual basis.)
2. Have a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 (A = 4.00) for their B.S. degree in Electrical or Computer Engineering a closely related field.

Post-Bachelor's Integrated BS-PHD Track:

The Integrated BS-PHD Track program allows UNLV undergraduate students who applied up to 9 credits of UNLV electrical engineering or computer engineering graduate courses towards their UNLV B.S. in Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering degree to complete their Ph.D. in engineering with up to 9 fewer credits than students in the Post-Bachelor's Track. All requirements leading to a Ph.D. are still required beyond the B.S. Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering excluding the completion of a Master's thesis.

1. Have a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 (A = 4.00) for their B.S. degree in electrical engineering or computer engineering at UNLV.
2. Have completed up to a maximum of 9 credits of formal Graduate College curriculum approved 600/700 level courses (which excludes informal courses such as Graduate Independent Study, Graduate Seminar, and Special Topics) which were applied towards the student's B.S. degree. Each graduate level course must have been completed with a minimum grade of B (GPA) of 3.2 (A = 4.00).

The GRE entrance requirement will be waived for students entering the Ph.D. program if ALL of the following are satisfied:

1. The candidate receives a MS degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at UNLV.
2. The candidate's BS GPA equals or exceeds 3.0.
3. The candidate's MS GPA equals or exceeds 3.6.

4. The candidate shows evidence that a paper pertaining to his/her research has been published in a refereed conference (minimum requirement). A published article in a refereed journal exceeds this minimum requirement. In all cases, the candidate must be the first author of the publication. Galley proofs along with a letter of acceptance may be used as minimum evidence that a paper will be published.
5. The candidate is not seeking a teaching assistantship.
6. One strong letter of recommendation from the major professor indicating the student's ability for higher education.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.