

**Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering and Construction**

# **GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK**

July 2025

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## 1 Welcome and Purpose of Handbook

Welcome to the graduate study in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction (CEEC). The Department provides a well-rounded education combining theoretical learning with applied laboratory experience.

### Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#), as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: [valarie.burke@unlv.edu](mailto:valarie.burke@unlv.edu) or [gradassocatedean@unlv.edu](mailto:gradassocatedean@unlv.edu). For additional information about the programs, please contact the CEEC Graduate Coordinator by emailing [ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu](mailto:ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu) or calling (702) 895-1360.

### Program Contact Information

**Name of Department Chair: Dr. Pramen P. Shrestha** ([ceec.chair@unlv.edu](mailto:ceec.chair@unlv.edu))

**Name of Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Mohamed S. Kaseko** ([ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu](mailto:ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu))

### 1.1 Degree Title

Graduate degrees awarded by the CEEC Department. Please see [Grad Catalog](#) for official program requirements.

- [Doctor of Philosophy \(Ph.D.\) in Civil & Environmental Engineering](#)
- [Master of Science in Engineering \(MSE\) - Civil & Environmental Engineering](#)
- [Master of Science in Construction and Infrastructure Management \(MSCIM\)](#)

### 1.2 Civil Engineering Concentrations

CEEC Graduate students can choose from the following area of specialization under the MSE and PhD degrees:

- Construction
- Geotechnical
- Structural
- Transportation
- Water Resources/ Environmental

## 2 General Policies

This section provides general policies regarding CEEC graduate programs. For additional details, consult [Graduate College website and Graduate Catalog](#):

- Student's Graduate Advisor or Advisory Committee Chair (ACC) for both MS and PhD must be from their area of expertise chosen for his/her degree. The list of the CEEC faculty, their area of expertise, and their email address is provided below.
- Change of ACC is permitted, although not encouraged. The change of ACC for a thesis- track MS or PhD student requires signature from the existing ACC (either approve/disapprove). The final decision about the change of ACC will be made by the Graduate Coordinator and/or Department Chair after consultation with the Department Graduate Affairs Committee.
- Changing ACC is permitted, although not encouraged. A student who changes ACC may not be eligible for teaching assistantship due to available resources. This will be decided by the Graduate Coordinator

and/or Department Chair after consultation with the Department Graduate Affairs Committee based on the students' past performance as a Teaching Assistant and the availability of teaching assistantships.

- Change of area of expertise is permitted, although not encouraged. It requires written approvals from both the Graduate Coordinator and/or Department Chair after consultation with the Department Graduate Affairs Committee. This may require change of the ACC.
- If a PhD student has completed the Qualifying Exam and decides to change the area of expertise, the student shall be required to retake the Qualifying Exam in the new area of expertise.
- A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Faculty must hold graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#).
- Below is a list of the current tenured or tenure-track faculty in the department (This is subject to change during the academic year):

S. N.	Name	Area	Email
1	Dr. JinOuk Choi	Construction	Jinouk.choi@unlv.edu
2	Professor Neil Opfer	Construction	Neil.opfer@unlv.edu
3	Dr. Jee Woong Park	Construction	Jee.park@unlv.edu
4	Dr. Pramen P. Shrestha	Construction	Pramen.shrestha@unlv.edu
5	Dr. Moses Karakouzian	Geo-technical	Moses.karakouzian@unlv.edu
6	Dr. Nader Ghafoori	Structural	Nader.ghafoori@unlv.edu
7	Dr. Saman Ladkany	Structural	Saman.ladkany@unlv.edu
8	Dr. Ying Tian	Structural	Ying.tian@unlv.edu
9	Dr. Mohamed Kaseko	Transportation	Mohamed.Kaseko@unlv.edu
10	Dr. Shashi Nambisan	Transportation	Shashi.nambisan@unlv.edu
11	Dr. Hualiang Teng	Transportation	Hualiang.teng@unlv.edu
12	Dr. Sajjad Ahmad	Water Re./Env.	Sajjad.ahmad@unlv.edu
13	Dr. Jaci Batista	Water Re./Env.	Jaci.batista@unlv.edu
14	Dr. Marie-Odile Fortier	Water Re./Env.	Marie-odile.fortier@unlv.edu
15	Dr. David James	Water Re./Env.	Dave.james@unlv.edu
16	Dr. Eakalak Khan	Water Re./Env.	Eakalak.khan@unlv.edu
17	Dr. Erica Marti	Water Re./Env.	Erica.marti@unlv.edu
18	Dr. Haroon Stephen	Water Re./Env.	Haroon.stephen@unlv.edu

## 2.1 Interruption of Study

When necessary, a student may request approval for a leave of absence (LOA) from a degree program. The LOA form is available in Grad Rebel Gateway portal and the student's LOA must be approved by his/her ACC before getting approval from Graduate Coordinator/ Department Chair and ultimately approved by the Graduate College. During the leave of absence, the student should remain in contact with the CEEC Department. Failure to complete degree program within suggested time limits as stated in the [Graduate Catalog](#) may result in removal from the degree program, unless the time extension is approved.

## 2.2 Probation and Separation

Students not making satisfactory progress will be recommended to be placed on probation to the Graduate College. A specific plan will be implemented to improve their progress. Probation may be removed upon a clear demonstration of progress within the time frame given in the specific plan. Failure to improve progress within the specified timeframe will result in a recommendation to the Graduate College for separation from the degree

program. Please refer to the [Graduate Catalog](#) for specific probation and separation information.

### *2.3 Appeal Procedures*

Students requesting reconsideration for decisions related to their degree program can follow the Graduate College's appeal process. The appeal form is available in students' Grad Rebel Gateway portal.

## **3 Responsibilities**

All members of the UNLV community are dedicated to learning. In responding to this dedication, the university demands a high level of scholarly behavior and academic honesty on the part of students. Please see [Graduate Catalog](#) for more information.

### *3.1 Responsibilities of Graduate Students*

The university, Graduate College, and CEEC Department expect a high level of scholarly integrity and academic honesty on the part of students. Quality academic work requires honesty. The UNLV faculty and administration regard any attempt by a student to present as his or her own work, which he or she has not solely produced, as a serious offense. The university student academic misconduct policy rule can be found in [this link](#).

### *3.2 Responsibilities of Graduate Assistants*

Graduate assistant (GA) is an admitted advanced degree student who has been appointed to provide teaching, research or other academic support service to an academic unit while pursuing a graduate program of study. All GAs, whether state or extramurally funded, are under the jurisdiction and regulations of the Graduate College. Students may refer to the [Graduate College website](#) and [Graduate Assistantship Handbook](#) for more information.

### *3.3 Responsibilities of Teaching Assistants*

Teaching assistants (TAs) are required to assist in teaching activities of the Department's laboratory courses and/or grading of homework in undergraduate courses. Normally, TAs meet with the course instructor(s) at the beginning of the term to understand their responsibilities. TAs are expected to be knowledgeable in the subject matter of undergraduate courses. They are expected to be punctual in attendance for their duties and will be present for the full semester.

TAs should post regular office hours for students and be available during those times without any special appointment. The MS students receiving teaching assistantships are expected to complete their degree program in thesis track. TAs' thesis or dissertation research work is not considered as a part of their teaching assistantship responsibility. These research-related activities are voluntary and considered an important part of the students' development in making progress in their degree program to meet milestone requirements.

TAs must ensure that they thoroughly understand the apparatus and principles of laboratory exercises. It is understood that this will, in many cases, require them to spend additional time for preparation outside of regularly-scheduled laboratory hours.

Grading should be performed in a thorough, consistent, punctual and professional manner. Reasons for mark deductions should be indicated in clear and unambiguous terms in ink. Grading should be done in the context of a scheme, which has been approved by the course instructor and is made available to the undergraduate students.

TAs may occasionally be asked to perform duties that do not fall within the previous categories, such as proctoring an exam or assisting the Department in its accreditation efforts and/or course evaluations.

### *3.4 Termination of Graduate/ Teaching Assistantship*

Failure to perform assigned duties or poor performance will result in a recommendation to the Graduate College for immediate termination of the GA or TA contract. Refer to the Graduate College Graduate Assistant Handbook for additional information.

### *3.5 Formation of Advisory Committee*

The students in MS thesis track and PhD degree must have an advisory committee. The advisory committee consists of ACC and other members. The advisory committee formation rule is provided in the [Graduate Catalog](#). Refer [graduate catalog](#) for CEEC department.

#### *3.5.1 Eligibility and Responsibilities of Thesis/Dissertation Advisory Committee Chair*

To become ACC of MS and PhD students' committee, the faculty member must have a tenured or tenure-track position in CEEC department. The ACC duties are defined by the Graduate College and are posted on the [Graduate Student Handbook](#).

#### *3.5.2 Eligibility and Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee Members*

For PhD students, a Doctoral Advisory Committee composed of at least five members of the UNLV graduate faculty is to be formed for the student. At least three of the committee members must be from tenured or tenure-track faculty of the CEEC Department and the fourth member from a related field. The fifth faculty member, the Graduate College Representative (GCR), is recommended by advisor/advisee. (See [graduate catalog](#) for GCR role). It is strongly recommended that the Doctoral Advisory Committee collective expertise reflects the dissertation topic. The committee chair must be a CEEC tenured or tenure-track faculty from the area of expertise chosen for dissertation topic. There can also be up to two additional members from related areas who have GFS status in the department or UNLV.

For thesis masters students, a Thesis Advisory Committee composed of at least four members of the UNLV graduate faculty is to be formed for the student. At least two of the committee members must be from tenured or tenure-track faculty of the CEEC Department and the third member must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty or an individual who has GFS in CEEC Department. The fourth faculty member, the Graduate College Representative, is recommended by advisor/advisee. (See [graduate catalog](#) for GCR role). It is recommended that the Thesis Advisory Committee collective expertise reflects the thesis topic. The committee chair must be a tenured or tenure-track CEEC faculty from the area of expertise chosen for thesis topic. For MSCIM Construction Management track, the committee chair must be a CEM tenured or tenure-track faculty from the area of expertise chosen for thesis topic. There can also be up to two additional members from related areas who have GFS status in the department or UNLV.

For non-thesis master students, a Master's Examination Committee composed of at least four members of the UNLV graduate faculty is to be formed for the student. At least three of the committee members must be from tenured or tenure-track faculty of the CEEC Department. The fourth faculty member, the Graduate College Representative, is recommended by advisor/advisee and serves as the representative of the Graduate College. The chair of the committee must be a tenured or tenure-track CEEC faculty with expertise similar to the student's area of specialty. For MSCIM Construction Management track, the committee chair must be a CEM tenured or tenure-track faculty from the area of expertise chosen for thesis topic. There can also be up to two additional members from related areas who have GFS status in the department or UNLV.

Please refer the [graduate catalog](#) for requirements for faculty to become members of the advisory committee. In addition to this department rule, eligibility and responsibilities of the advisory committee members are posted on the [Graduate Student Handbook](#).

## **4 Graduate Degree Milestones**

#### 4.1 MS Thesis Track's Degree Milestones (MSE, Integrated BS-MSE Thesis, and MSCIM)

- Upon admission acceptance, students will be assigned ACC within the first semester based on student's track selected during application process. Typically, CEEC faculty providing funding support will serve as the ACC. Students with other sources of financial support outside UNLV will be assigned the ACC based on the student's preference, someone in his or her area of interest chosen during application process.
- Student must meet with his/her ACC prior to registering for graduate classes. First semester students without the ACC should contact Graduate Coordinator for advising.
- MS Thesis track students should adhere to the following sample timeline below. If for some reason, the student is unable to adhere to the sample timeline, they must consult their ACC and Graduate Coordinator.

Requirements	Deadline
Submit <i>Appointment of Advisory Committee</i> form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal	End of 1st semester of study
Submit <i>Plan of Study</i> form along with Part 2 via Grad Rebel Gateway portal. Part 2 of the form can be found under "Documents and Downloads" for the corresponding track at <a href="#">this weblink for MSE</a> or <a href="#">this weblink for MSCIM</a> .	End of 2nd semester of study
Submit <i>Thesis Prospectus Approval</i> form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal. Enrolling in thesis credits are only permitted after students have completed all course required (other than then thesis credits) and have their thesis prospectus approved and submitted in Grad Rebel Gateway.	End of 2nd semester of study and after completion of at least 3 credits of CEE 790 or CEM 790
Submit <a href="#">Graduation Application Form</a>	Check Grad College website for deadlines
Submit final draft of thesis to ACC and committee Members	At least 2 weeks prior to oral defense
Put the advertisement of thesis oral defense in the board provided in TBE B building	At least 2 weeks prior to oral defense
Email Grad College as well as Graduate Coordinator the thesis oral defense date	At least 2 weeks prior to oral defense
The Graduate Coordinator will distribute the Final Thesis Presentation Evaluation form (Refer Appendix) to be completed by all the committee members during or after the oral defense.	The chair, committee members, and graduate representative will fill out the form during thesis defense. The form submission process is provided in the form.
Submit the <i>Culminating Experience Results</i> form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal. Contact graduate college for thesis formatting and iThenticate approval process.	After the advisory committee approves the final thesis

Fill out the Graduate Exit Survey by visiting the link sent by Graduate Coordinator	This survey link will be sent by the Graduate Coordinator, once he/she gets the <b><i>Culminating Experience Results</i></b> form signed by all the committee members. Graduate Coordinator will not sign the <b><i>Culminating Experience Results</i></b> form, until this survey is completed by the student.
Submit all paperwork to Grad College	Grad College deadline

- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all advisory committee members will be available for the oral defense. Student must check as to advisory committee members' travel schedule, sabbatical schedule, or the members' existence of prior commitment in advance of setting this oral defense date.
- For the class registration requirement during the graduation semester, refer [Graduate College rule](#)
- Completion of the MS degree requirements is given in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

#### 4.2 MS Non-thesis Track Degree Milestones (MSE and MSCIM)

- Upon admission acceptance, students will be assigned a Graduate Advisor within the first semester based on student's track selected during application process. Students will be assigned a Graduate Advisor based on the student's preference, someone in his or her area of interest chosen during application process.
- Student must meet with their CEEC Graduate Advisor prior to registering for graduate classes. First semester students without a Graduate Advisor should contact Graduate Coordinator for advising.
- MS non-thesis track students must adhere to the following sample timeline:

Requirements	Deadline
Submit Appointment of Masters Examination Committee form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal	Before end of 2nd semester of study
Submit <b><i>Plan of Study</i></b> form along with Part 2 via Grad Rebel Gateway portal. Part 2 of the form can be found under "Documents and Downloads" for the corresponding track at <a href="#">this weblink</a> for MSE or <a href="#">this weblink</a> for MSCIM.	End of 2nd semester of study
Take the culminating exam.	Within the last two semesters of graduation and after completion of at least 21 credits of approved coursework
Submit Graduation <a href="#">Application Form</a>	Check Grad College website for deadlines
Submit the <b><i>Culminating Experience Results</i></b> form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal.	After passing the culminating exam



Fill out the Graduate Exit Survey by visiting the link sent by Graduate Coordinator	This survey link will be sent by the Graduate Coordinator, once he/she gets the Culminating Experience Results form of the student. Graduate Coordinator will not sign the Culminating Experience Results form, until this survey is completed by the student.
Submit all paperwork to Grad College	Grad College deadline

- The exam will be prepared and graded by the student's Examination Committee, to be formed by the student. The Department Graduate Coordinator will administer the exam on same dates scheduled for PhD qualifying exams, which are the first Friday after Spring Break for the Spring semester, and the first Friday of November for the Fall semester.
- For class registration requirements during the graduation semester, refer [Graduate College rule](#)
- Completion of the MSE degree requirements given in the [catalog](#).

#### 4.3 Doctoral Degree Milestones

- Upon admission acceptance, students will be assigned ACC within the first semester based on student's track selected during application process. Typically, CEEC faculty providing funding support will serve as the ACC. Students with other sources of financial support outside UNLV will be assigned the ACC based on the student's preference, someone in his or her area of interest chosen during application process.
- Student must meet with his/her ACC prior to registering for graduate classes. First semester students without the ACC should contact Graduate Coordinator for advising.
- Ph.D. students should adhere to the following sample timeline below. If for some reason, the student is unable to adhere to the sample timeline, they must consult their ACC and Graduate Coordinator.

Requirements	Deadline
Submit <i>Appointment of Advisory Committee</i> form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of study
Take PhD Qualifying Exam. After the completion of the exam, the ACC will inform the result of the exam to the student. Then the student needs to fill out the "Departmental Milestone Results Tracking Form" available in Grad Rebel Gateway and route for the committee members' signatures. If the student fails the qualifying exam, it is recommended to take the exam in the following semester. After the first failure, the student will be placed on probation via the Graduate College.	On 3rd semester for Post-Master Ph.D. track* On 4th semester for Post-Bachelor Ph.D. track*
Submit <i>Plan of Study</i> form along with Part 2 via Grad Rebel Gateway portal. Part 2 of the form can be found under <a href="#">"Document and Downloads"</a> .	End of 3rd semester for Post-Master Ph.D. track* End of 4th semester for Post-Bachelor Ph.D. track*
Defend dissertation proposal	1 semester following qualifying Exam and after completion of at least 6 credits of CEE 794
Submit <i>Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy</i> form via Grad Rebel Gateway portal (This form includes Dissertation Prospectus form as well) Only after approved advancement to doctoral candidacy, may students enroll in dissertation credits.	Immediately after successful proposal defense.
Submit Graduation <a href="#">Application Form</a>	Check Grad College website for deadlines
Submit final draft of dissertation to ACC and committee members	At least 2 weeks prior to dissertation defense
Put the advertisement of dissertation defense in the board provided in the TBE B building	At least 2 weeks prior to dissertation defense

Requirements	Deadline
Email Grad College and Graduate Coordinator the dissertation defense date	At least 2 weeks prior to dissertation defense
The Graduate Coordinator will distribute the Final Dissertation Presentation Evaluation form to all the committee members to be completed during or after the dissertation oral defense. (Refer Appendix)	The chair and committee members will fill out the form during dissertation defense. The form submission process is provided in the form.
Submit the <i>Culminating Experience Results</i> form. Contact graduate college for dissertation formatting and iThenticate approval process.	After the advisory committee approves the final dissertation
Fill out the Graduate Exit Survey by visiting the link sent by Graduate Coordinator	This survey link will be sent by the Graduate Coordinator, once he/she gets the <i>Culminating Experience Results</i> form signed by all the committee members. Graduate Coordinator will not sign the <i>Culminating Experience Results</i> form, until this survey is completed by the student.
Submit all paperwork to Grad College	Grad College deadline

\*Administered on 1st Friday of November in Fall and 1st Friday after Spring Break in Spring semester.

- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all advisory committee members will be available for the oral defense. Student must check as to advisory committee members' travel schedule, sabbatical schedule, or the members' existence of prior commitment in advance of setting this oral defense date.
- For the class registration requirement during the graduation semester, refer [Graduate College rule](#)
- Completion of the PhD degree requirements given in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

## 5 Graduate Degree Requirements

### 5.1 Degree Requirements

The degree requirements for PhD, MSE, Integrated BS-MSE Thesis, and MSCIM are provided in [Graduate Catalog](#).

Field Code Changed

### 5.2 Scheduling the Qualifying Examination

**Written Examination:** Each committee member will prepare one or more questions covering a given area of competence and provide to ACC. These questions shall be given to the candidate by the Department Graduate Coordinator during written examination, after ACC forwards the committee members' questions. The written examination is an 8-hour exam and will be given on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday after Spring Break in the Spring Semester or first Friday of November in the Fall Semester and is proctored by the Graduate Coordinator. Following the examination, the Graduate Coordinator will forward the students' responses to the respective ACC for grading. The ACC shall report their examination results to the Graduate Coordinator as well as to the students by filling out the form (This Examination results form can be located on the Grad Rebel Gateway under Milestone Results from).

**Oral Examination:** The oral examination, if required by the dissertation committee, shall be conducted within two

weeks after the written examination is completed. A two-hour examination period is recommended. The oral examination is a continuation of the written examination and allows the candidate to amplify and clarify the written responses. However, questions will not necessarily be confined to the subject matter covered on the written examination.

#### *Unsatisfactory Performance in the Qualifying Examination*

A vote by all members of the doctoral committee will determine satisfactory performance in both the written and oral parts of the qualifying examination. Unsatisfactory performance will require:

- Additional coursework and/or re-examination, or
- Recommended to be placed on probation and possible separation in accordance with the [Graduate Catalog](#).

In case of disagreement with the outcome of the exam, student may appeal in writing to the Department Chair, who, together with the Department Graduate Coordinator and the ACC shall make a decision regarding the candidate's continuation in the program. This decision will serve as a recommendation to the Graduate College about continuation in the program.

#### *5.3 Preparation and Defense of the Dissertation Proposal*

A formal research proposal detailing the proposed PhD research shall be developed independently by the candidate with guidance from ACC. The candidate will orally present and defend the proposal at a meeting of the dissertation committee. The written research proposal must be submitted to each member of the dissertation committee for their review at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The proposal will be judged by the committee on its technical merit.

After being accepted by the committee, a copy of the proposal, including any changes or additions requested by the committee, will become a permanent part of the candidate's record.

Approval of the proposal, by vote of the entire committee, will be recorded. After successful proposal defense, the students need to fill out the **Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy** form in the Grad Rebel Gateway portal.

Students are permitted to enroll in dissertation credits only after they have attained successfully advancement to doctoral candidacy status.

#### 5.4 *Defense of Doctoral Dissertation*

The final examination shall be an oral defense of the candidate's doctoral dissertation. The examination will be conducted by the candidate's doctoral committee in accordance with the Graduate College requirements. After the successful completion of final defense and completion of requested revisions by the doctoral committee, the student needs to fill out the **Final Culminating Experience** form by visiting the Grad Rebel Gateway portal.

#### 5.5 *Additional Requirements – All Degree Programs*

Refer to the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) for:

- [Taking Credits from another Institution while at UNLV](#)
- [Limitation on Credit Load](#)
- [Grade Point Average \(GPA\)](#)
- [Continuous Enrollment for Maintaining Continuing Registration](#)
- [The iThenticate Requirement for Theses & Dissertations](#)

### 6 University Resources for Graduate Students

UNLV campus maintains a wide range of resources to facilitate and promote students' educational experience. The following list is provided to acquaint those with the resources specifically relevant to graduate students. A brief description and website link are provided.

#### 6.1 *The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development*

The goal of the Graduate Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

#### 6.2 *Alumni Engagement*

With an alumni base 150,000+ strong, the UNLV Alumni Engagement offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

#### 6.3 *Commencement Office*

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they apply for graduation on time and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College Student Services Team and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College RPC Team.

#### 6.4 *Office of Diversity Initiatives*

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of

Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment.* This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

#### 6.5 Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

#### 6.6 Office of International Student and Scholars Services

International Students and Scholars (ISSS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

#### 6.7 The Care Center

The Care Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

#### 6.8 The Intersection

The Intersection is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

#### 6.9 UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

#### Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

#### Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

#### 6.10 Military and Veteran Services Center

The Military and Veteran Service Center is staffed with veterans and veteran education benefits-experienced staff to assist more than 1,800 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists attending UNLV. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

#### The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

#### Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

### Annual Mandatory Individual Development Plan and Procedures

Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress, and it establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead. Reported student data is shared with students' graduate coordinators and advisors to foster opportunities for discussion about students' strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments and next requirements, and mentoring plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner. Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

### University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the [Graduate Student Handbook](#), and following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [Change of Address](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebemail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

UNLV does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities, including admissions, on the basis of sex/gender pursuant to Title IX, or on the basis of any other legally protected category as is set forth in NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 13. Reports of discriminatory misconduct, questions regarding Title IX, and/or concerns about noncompliance with Title IX or any other anti-discrimination laws or policies should be directed to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator Michelle Sposito.

The Title IX Coordinator can be reached through the online reporting form at [Title IX Reporting Form](#), by email at [titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu), by phone at (702) 895-4055, by mail at 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 451062, Las Vegas, NV, 89154-1062, or in person at Frank and Estella Beam Hall (BEH), Room 555.

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

*Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.*


Field Code Changed



6.3.6.11 Handbook Information

Last Revised	Revised by	Change summary/Department vote
May 2019	Pramen P. Shrestha	Updated Program Information
April 2020	Pramen P. Shrestha	Name of CEEC faculty
April 2021	Pramen P. Shrestha	MSCM degree change to MSCIM, removal of MST degree, CEEC faculty name added, and making the handbook consistent with <a href="#">Graduate Catalog</a> . Faculty approval, 16-0-0
March 2023	Mohamed S Kaseko	Change the names of the Dept Chair and Graduate Coordinator; Add the name of the new faculty member to the faculty list. Faculty approval: Date 2/28/2023, Vote 12/0/0/
March 2024	Mohamed S Kaseko	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Timeline for Thesis Prospectus submission and approval: Added the requirement for completion of at least 3 credits CEE 790/CEM 790.</li> <li>2. Similarly for PhD, added the requirement for students to complete at least 6 credits of CEE 794 before defending dissertation proposal.</li> <li>3. Replaced culminating seminar requirement with culminating exam for non-thesis students, including statement on scheduling of the exam.</li> <li>4. Added a paragraph on formation of Masters Examination Committee for non-thesis students.</li> <li>5. Changed all references to “project track” to “non-thesis track”.</li> <li>6. Revised description of the composition of Thesis Advisory Committees to be consistent with Graduate College requirements.</li> <li>7. Deleted statements and references related to non-existent seminar course requirements for both MS and PhD programs.</li> <li>8. Revised statement on change of area of expertise: requirements made similar for both thesis and non-thesis students</li> <li>9. Added 3-year graduate course plan offerings in the appendix.</li> <li>10. Faculty approval: Date 3/19/2024. Vote 13/0/0</li> </ol>
March 2025	Mohamed S Kaseko	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change of Spring Semester date for PhD Qualifying Exams and MSE Non-thesis Culminating Exams.</li> <li>2. Removal of Dr Jeehee Lee, who has left UNLV, from the list of CEEC department faculty.</li> <li>3. Correction on who distributes the Thesis and Dissertation Defense Evaluation forms: It is the Graduate Coordinator, not the student, as was stated in the current handbook.</li> <li>4. Updated Thesis and Dissertation Defense evaluation forms shown in the appendix.</li> <li>5. Updated list of planned graduate course offerings for the next three years.</li> </ol>

## Final Dissertation Defense Evaluation Form

Name of Student	
Area of Expertise	Choose the option 
Title of Dissertation	
Name of Evaluator	
Date of Dissertation Defense/Evaluation	
Please rate the dissertation and presentation on the following categories:	Evaluator's Scale (Select one) - See the next page for rubrics.
1. Acquire and apply appropriate research methodology to solve contemporary engineering problems related to the area of their expertise.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Below Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Above Proficient	
2. Demonstrate an ability to generate, collect, compile, and interpret research data.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Below Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Above Proficient	
3. Demonstrate that the dissertation contributes new and significant knowledge towards the area of expertise.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High	
4. Demonstrate written technical communication skills.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Below Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Above Proficient	
5. Demonstrate oral technical communication skills.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Below Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Proficient <input type="checkbox"/> Above Proficient	



Evaluator's Signature

Please send the completed form to [ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu](mailto:ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu)

### Final Masters Thesis Defense Evaluation Form

Name of Student	
Degree Pursued	Select the option <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Area of Expertise	Select the option <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Title of Thesis	
Name of Evaluator	
Date of Final Thesis Defense/Evaluation	
Please rate the thesis and presentation on the following categories:	Evaluator's Scale (Select one) - See the next page for rubrics.
<b>1. Acquire and apply appropriate research methodology to solve contemporary construction/transportation problems.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Below Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Above Proficient</i>	
<b>2. Demonstrate an ability to generate, collect, compile, and interpret research data.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Below Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Above Proficient</i>	
<b>3. Demonstrate written technical communication skills.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Below Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Above Proficient</i>	
<b>4. Demonstrate oral technical communication skills.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Below Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Proficient</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Above Proficient</i>	

**Signature**

**Evaluator's Signature**

Please send the completed form to [ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu](mailto:ceec.gradcoord@unlv.edu)

CEEC Graduate Course Offering

3- Year Plan (2024/25 – 2026/27)

**Construction**

Semester and Year	Course Prefix	Name of the courses
Spring 2025	CEE 710/ CEM 710	Modular Construction
	CEM 685	Construction Law and Contracts
	CEE 681/CEM 680	Sustainable Construction for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 633/CEM 632	Temporary Struct. for Constr. of Infrastr. Projects
Sum. 2025	CEE 609	Project Management
Fall 2025	CEE 720/ CEM 720	Information and Sensing Technology in Constr.
	CEE 673/ CEM 653	Construction Scheduling for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 672/CEM 651	Construction Estimating for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 681/CEM 680	Sustainable Construction for Infrastructure Projects
Spring 2026	CEM 654	Heavy Construction Equipment and Methods
	CEE 785/ CEM 705	Construction Engineering Management
	CEM 685	Construction Law and Contracts
	CEE 681/CEM 680	Sustainable Construction for Infrastructure Projects
Sum. 2026	CEE 609	Project Management
Fall 2026	CEE 710/CEM 710	Modular Construction
	CEE 681/CEM 680	Sustainable Construction for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 673/CEM 653	Construction Scheduling for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 672/CEM 651	Construction Estimating for Infrastructure Projects
Spring 2027	CEM 654	Heavy Construction Equipment and Methods
	CEE 720/CEM 720	Information and Sensing Technology in Constr.
	CEM 685	Construction Law and Contracts
	CEE 681/CEM 680	Sustainable Construction for Infrastructure Projects
Sum. 2027	CEE 609	Project Management
Fall 2027	CEE 785/CEM 705	Construction Engineering Management
	CEE 681/ CEM 680	Sustainable Construction for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 673 / CEM 653	Construction Scheduling for Infrastructure Projects
	CEE 672 / CEM 651	Construction Estimating for Infrastructure Projects
	CEM 654	Heavy Construction Equipment and Methods

**Geotechnical**

Semester and Year	Course Prefix	Name of the courses
Spring 2025	CEE 610	Highway Construction Materials
Spring 2026	CEE 610	Highway Construction Materials
Fall 2026	CEE 635	Foundations Engineering
Spring 2027	CEE 610	Highway Construction Materials
Fall 2027	CEE 635	Foundations Engineering

### Structural

Semester and Year	Course Prefix	Name of the courses
Spring 2025	CEE 680	Concrete Structure Design
Summer 2025	CEE 680	Concrete Structure Design
	CEE 682	Design of Timber Structures
Fall 2025	CEE 644	Steel Structural Design
	CEE 775	Seismic Response of Structures
	CEE 7xx	Advanced Cementitious Materials (To be created)
Spring 2026	CEE 680	Concrete Structure Design
Summer 2026	CEE 680	Concrete Structure Design
	CEE 682	Design of Timber Structures
Fall 2026	CEE 744	Design of Prestressed/ Post-Tensioned Concrete Structures
	CEE 644	Steel Structural Design
Spring 2027	CEE 680	Concrete Structure Design
Summer 2027	CEE 680	Concrete Structure Design
	CEE 682	Design of Timber Structures
Fall 2027	CEE 775	Seismic Response of Structures
	CEE 7xx	Advanced Cementitious Materials (To be created)
	CEE 644	Steel Structural Design

### Transportation

Semester and Year	Course Prefix	Name of the courses
Spring 2025	CEE 763	Advanced Traffic Engineering
	CEE 661	Introduction to Railroad Transportation
Fall 2025	CEE 725	Freight Transportation
Spring 2026	CEE 671	Public Transportation
	CEE 666	Geometric Design of Highways
Fall 2026	CEE 726	Railroad Operations
	CEE xxx	Advances in Transportation (to be created)
	CEE 670	High Speed Rail
Spring 2027	CEE 762	Operations Research Applications in Civil Engineering
	CEE 661	Introduction to Railroad Transportation
Fall 2027	CEE 727	Transportation Safety
	CEE 761	Transportation Demand Analysis
	CEE 663	Traffic Engineering
	CEE 662	Railroad Engineering

**Water Re./ Env.**

Semester and Year	Course Prefix	Name of the courses
Spring 2025	CEE 752	Applied Environmental Chemistry and Analysis
	CEE 654	Solid and Hazardous Wastes Engineering
	CEE 613	Water Resources Engineering
Summer 2025	CEE 668	GIS Applications in Civil Engineering
Fall 2025	CEE 712	Advanced Hazardous Waste Management
	CEE 707	Life Cycle Assessment
	CEE 650	Unit Operations/ Processes in Environmental Engineering
Spring 2026	CEE 756	Advanced Waste Treatment Design
	CEE 654	Solid and Hazardous Wastes Engineering
	CEE 613	Water Resources Engineering
Summer 2026	CEE 668	GIS Applications in Civil Engineering
Fall 2026	CEE 755	Advanced Physicochemical Methods for Water Treatment
	CEE 707	Life Cycle Assessment
	CEE 704	Environmental & Water Systems
	CEE 651	Environmental Water Chemistry and Analysis
	CEE 650	Unit Operations/ Processes in Environmental Engineering
Spring 2027	CEE 604	Open Chanel Flow
	CEE 768	Applied Geographic Information Systems
	CEE 754	Biochemical Wastewater Treatment Fundamentals
	CEE 752	Applied Environmental Chemistry and Analysis
	CEE 654	Solid and Hazardous Wastes Engineering
Summer 2027	CEE 613	Water Resources Engineering
	CEE 668	GIS Applications in Civil Engineering
Fall 2027	CEE 750	Urban Runoff Quality and Control
	CEE 712	Advanced Hazardous Waste Management
	CEE 707	Life Cycle Assessment
	CEE 655	Water Treatment Principles and Design
	CEE 650	Unit Operations/ Processes in Environmental Engineering