

Civil Engineering PhD Program Requirements

Total Minimum Hours: 78

Coursework Requirements: Students work with their advisor and committee to develop a plan of study. A minimum of 48 credits of formal coursework beyond the bachelor's degree are required:

- A minimum 15 credits of coursework are required within the area of concentration.
- A maximum of 9 credits of independent study may be applied toward the coursework requirements.
- A maximum of 6 credits of master's thesis may be applied toward the coursework requirements.
- No credits of directed research or graduate instruction methods may be used toward the coursework requirements.
- Up to 30 credits of coursework from an approved master's degree may be applied to meet the coursework requirements.

Additional Credits: An additional 10 credits of coursework, dissertation or directed research are required.

Doctoral dissertation committee: consists of at least five members, two of whom must come from the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, one of whom must be a member of the College of Engineering outside the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and one of whom must be outside the College of Engineering.

Qualifying Exam: doctoral students are expected to pass a qualifying examination no later than the semester following the completion of 48 credits of coursework beyond a bachelor's degree. At minimum, the exam will include a written dissertation proposal and oral defense given by the dissertation committee. A written exam in the area of concentration may also be required. Poor performance by a student on the qualifying exam based on the judgment of the committee may result in the student failing the exam. If a student does not pass on the first attempt, he/she may request in writing to repeat the exam. Students who fail the Qualifying Examination the second time will be dropped by the program.

Dissertation Requirements: A minimum of 20 credits of dissertation, an approved PhD dissertation and a dissertation defense are required. Students may not sign up for dissertation credits until they have defended their proposal and advanced to candidacy.

Publication Requirement: The department requires that all doctoral students have a paper accepted to a peer reviewed journal or conference. Please discuss this with your advisor in a timely manner as it can take six months or more to receive review comments back from a journal. Many faculty members in the department require their students to have more than one paper accepted.

