PhD in Civil Engineering

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https://engineering.missouri.edu/departments/civil-environmental-engineering/

Degree Requirements

PhD programs are committee administered and tailored to fit the needs of each individual student. A minimum of 72 credit hours, including the credit hours taken during the MS program beyond the bachelor’s degree, are required. Students who received the MS degree from other than MU may transfer up to 30 hours of credit from their MS degree. The candidate must pass a comprehensive examination and submit and defend a dissertation at a final oral examination.

Residency Requirement

A student must complete at least two nine-hour semesters or three six-hour semesters in an 18-month period at MU. All courses taken to satisfy the residency requirement must be approved by the student’s doctoral program committee. Correspondence and off-campus courses may not be counted toward the residency requirements.

Qualifying for Candidacy

Students are accepted for advisement upon CE Graduate Admissions Committee review. Formal acceptance to the PhD program is based on a qualifying examination during the first year of post-master’s work.

The Qualifying Examination is required to determine the formal acceptance to candidacy for the PhD degree and is based on a written and/or oral examination administered by faculty members in the student’s area of concentration. The student, upon passing this examination, will be advised on the program of coursework that should be taken to prepare for the PhD degree.

Comprehensive Examination Process

Candidacy for a doctoral degree is established by passing the comprehensive examination. The comprehensive examination includes written and oral sections and is completed as the candidate is completing the prescribed coursework to determine if the PhD candidate is adequately prepared to conduct the doctoral research. This examination will focus on the coursework and/or research/proposal writing. The student may be advised to take some additional coursework. A written proposal of the research must be distributed to the student’s doctoral committee for review after which an oral presentation and examination on the proposed work will be administrated.

Dissertation Requirements

The third examination, called the Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation, is required to determine if the PhD degree should be awarded on the basis of the research that is presented. The student must submit the written dissertation to the committee members at least two weeks prior to the exam. This is an oral examination that is administered by the Doctoral Committee.

Graduate students are required to submit one copy of their dissertation or thesis to the Office of Graduate Studies, 210 Jesse Hall on a CD.