

New ECE Graduate Student Orientation Meeting

Monday, August 21, 2017

11:00 AM - AK 219

Introductions....



- > ECE Department Head Professor John McNeill
- ECE Associate Department Head Professor Reinhold Ludwig
- Graduate Program Committee Chair Professor Kaveh Pahlavan
- ➤ ECE Shop Technicians Bill Appleyard / Leah Morales
- > ECE Lab and Office Manager James O'Rourke
- ECE IT Support James Kingsley
- ECE Department's Office Staff:
 - Colleen Sweeney Main contact person for any graduate program questions (i.e. forms, paperwork, letters, etc.)
 - Deb Thompson Main contact person for questions about expense reports, reimbursements, etc.

ECE Department



Research Cluster Areas

- > Smart World / Intelligent CyberPhysical Systems
- > eHealth
- Security / Privacy

Philosophy behind Research Clusters

Application drives Technology

Expectation as Member of Research Community

- > MS: Master disciplinary area
- PhD: Independent contribution to knowledge
- > You are always representing WPI!

ECE Research Areas & Labs



Smart World / Intelligent CyberPhysical Systems

> Antenna Laboratory

Prof. Sergey Makarov

> Center for Wireless Information Network Studies (CWINS)

Prof. Kaveh Pahlavan

Embedded Computing Laboratory

Prof. Xinming Huang

Wireless Innovation Laboratory (WILab)

Prof. Alexander Wyglinski

Renewable Energy Laboratory

Prof. Mahmoud

> Intelligent Robotic Mobility Laboratory

Prof. Fu

ECE Research Areas & Labs



eHealth

- ➤ Laboratory for Sensory and Physiologic Signal Processing (L(SP)2)

 Prof. Edward A. Clancy
- RF-Electronics and Medical Imaging Laboratory Prof. Reinhold Ludwig
- ➤ Analog/Mixed Signal Microelectronics Laboratory

 Prof. John McNeill

Security / Privacy

- Vernam Security Group
 Profs. Sunar (ECE), Martin (Mathematics), Venkatasubramanian (CS)
- Secure Cyberphysical Systems
 Prof. Clark
- Signal Processing and Information Networking (SPIN Laboratory)
 Prof. Donald Brown

ECE Degree Programs



> ECE Certificate and Degree Programs

- GC the graduate certificate program allows students to take five courses that are focused in a specific technical area (SYS, PSE or PSM) which can be used towards a graduate degree program should the student decide to further their education.
- BSMS WPI students are allowed to double count courses (*up to 12 credits*) taken as an undergrad towards their MS degree provided that they are accepted into this program. Students in the combined program continue to be registered as undergraduates until they have completed all requirements for the B.S. degree.
- MEng The MEng degree is tailored for individuals seeking an industrial career path. Similar to the M.S. degree, the MEng degree requires the successful completion of at least 21 credits of WPI ECE graduate courses. In contrast to the M.S. degree, the MEng degree allows up to 9 credits of non-ECE courses to be chosen as management courses and does not include a thesis option.

ECE Degree Programs



> ECE Degree Programs (cont.)

- MS Students have the option of following two routes to this degree: (1) a non-thesis option requiring 30 graduate credits in course work, independent study or directed research, or (2) a thesis option also totaling 30 graduate credits and including a thesis of nine credits. Students completing a master's degree with thesis option will be required to do a presentation of their thesis as part of their degree requirements.
- PhD Students with a M.S. degree in electrical and computer engineering may apply for the doctoral program; admission is contingent on a review of the application and associated references. Areas in which Ph.D. Research programs are currently underway include computational fields, machine vision, wireless networks, power systems and computer engineering. Requirements: 30 credits of coursework, plus an additional 30 credits of dissertation research. Students will also need to pass the Diagnostic Qualifying Exam during their first year in the PhD program as well as an Area Exam at least 3 months prior to their dissertation defense.

ECE's Program of Study Forms



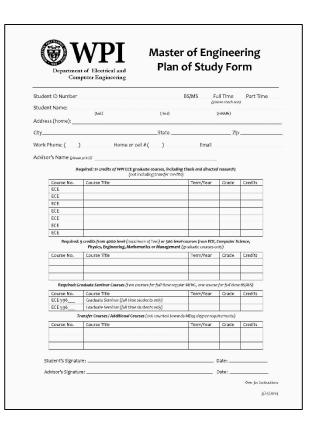
Program of Study Forms

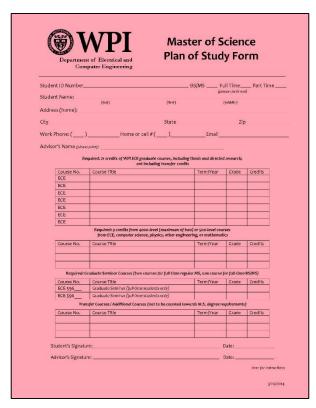
The Program of Study Forms are used as a guide to keep students on track as far as the courses they have taken or are planning to take in order to complete their degree programs.

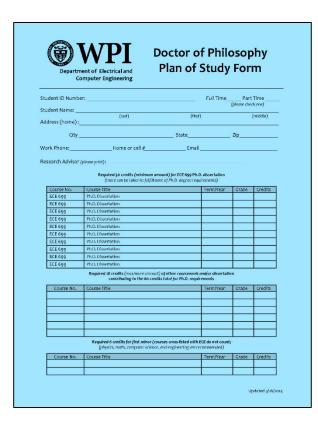
Students need to contact their academic advisors in order to set up a time to meet to discuss course selection, based on the students area of interest, that will enable them to successfully complete their graduate program. All courses (30 credits, total) must be listed on the student's program of study form and then signed by the student's academic advisor.

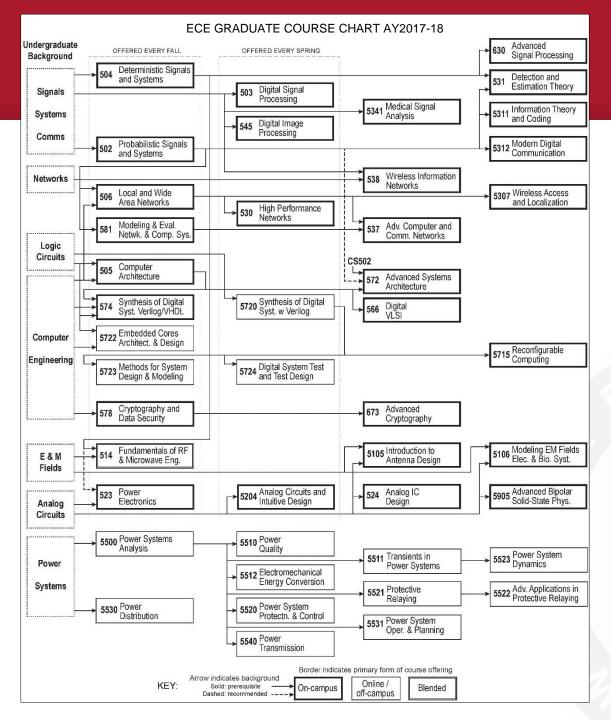
Students will need to submit their completed program of study forms to Colleen in the ECE office by the end of their first semester in the graduate program. Forms are kept in the student's file in the ECE office and can be updated at any time. Additional forms can be found in the folders on Colleen's desk in the ECE office.

Program of Study Forms











ECE Graduate Course Flow Chart

Introductory ECE Graduate Courses



> Introductory ECE Graduate Courses

The following are considered "introductory" ECE graduate courses that new students usually register for during their first or second semester:

ECE 502. ANALYSIS OF PROBABILISTIC SIGNALS AND SYSTEMS

Applications of probability theory and its engineering applications. Random variables, distribution and density functions. Functions of random variables, moments and characteristic functions. Sequences of random variables, stochastic convergence and the central limit theorem. Concept of a stochastic process, stationary processes and ergodicity. Correlation functions, spectral analysis and their application to linear systems. Mean square estimation. (Prerequisite: Undergraduate course in signals and systems.)

ECE 503. DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING

Discrete-time signals and systems, frequency analysis, sampling of continuous time signals, the z-transform, implementation of discrete time systems, the discrete Fourier transform, fast Fourier transform algorithms, filter design techniques. (Prerequisites: Courses in complex variables, basic signals and systems.)

Introductory ECE Graduate Courses



> Introductory ECE Graduate Courses (cont.)

ECE 504. ANALYSIS OF DETERMINISTIC SIGNALS AND SYSTEMS

Review of Fourier series and linear algebra. Fourier transforms, Laplace transforms, Z transforms and their interrelationship. State space modeling of continuous-time and discrete-time systems. Canonical forms, solution of state equations, controllability, observability and stability of linear systems. Pole placement via state feedback, observer design, Lyapunov stability analysis. (Prerequisite: Undergraduate course in signals and systems.)

ECE 505. COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE

This course introduces the fundamentals of computer system architecture and organization. Topics include CPU structure and function, addressing modes, instruction formats, memory system organization, memory mapping and hierarchies, concepts of cache and virtual memories, storage systems, standard local buses, high-performance I/O, computer communication, basic principles of operating systems, multiprogramming, multiprocessing, pipelining and memory management. The architecture principles underlying RISC and CISC processors are presented in detail. The course also includes a number of design projects, including simulating a target machine, architecture using a high-level language (HLL). (Prerequisites: Undergraduate course in logic circuits and microprocessor system design, as well as proficiency in assembly language and a structured high-level language such as C or Pascal.)

Introductory ECE Graduate Courses



- **▶ Introductory ECE Graduate Courses** (cont.)
 - ECE 506. INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL AND WIDE AREA NETWORKS

This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of the design of computer and communications networks, including the ISO seven-layer reference model. Analysis of network topologies and protocols, including performance analysis, is treated. Current network types including local area and wide area networks are introduced, as are evolving network technologies. The theory, design and performance of local area networks are emphasized. The course includes an introduction to queueing analysis and network programming. (Prerequisites: knowledge of the C programming language is assumed. CS 504 or ECE 502 or equivalent background in CS 5084 or CS 584.)

Most Commonly Used ECE Graduate Forms



- ➤ **Graduate Petition Forms** These forms are needed for students with extenuating circumstances when approvals are needed from the graduate program committee. (i.e. academic probation or suspension from the graduate program, transfer of credits for graduate courses, etc.)
- ➤ **Transfer Credit Authorization Forms** needed when transferring courses taken at other institutions into student's degree program grade received must be a B or better and can only transfer up to 9 credits [3 courses] and must be equivalent to those offered at WPI.
- ➤ **Change of Status Form** needed if changing status from full-time to part-time or changing degree program from MS to MENG or vice-versa.
- TA Time Commitment Worksheets and Research Summary Forms —
 Students who have been awarded a department TA position will need to fill out the TA Time
 Commitment Worksheet form with the instructor for the course they will be a TA for in
 order to define what their TA responsibilities will be for that particular course. Research
 Summary Forms must be filled out by all department funded TA's at the end of the semester
 that they are a TA, summarizing their current research and listing the courses they took for
 that semester. Once complete, this form will need to be signed by the student's research
 advisor and submitted to Colleen.

Most Commonly Used ECE Graduate Forms

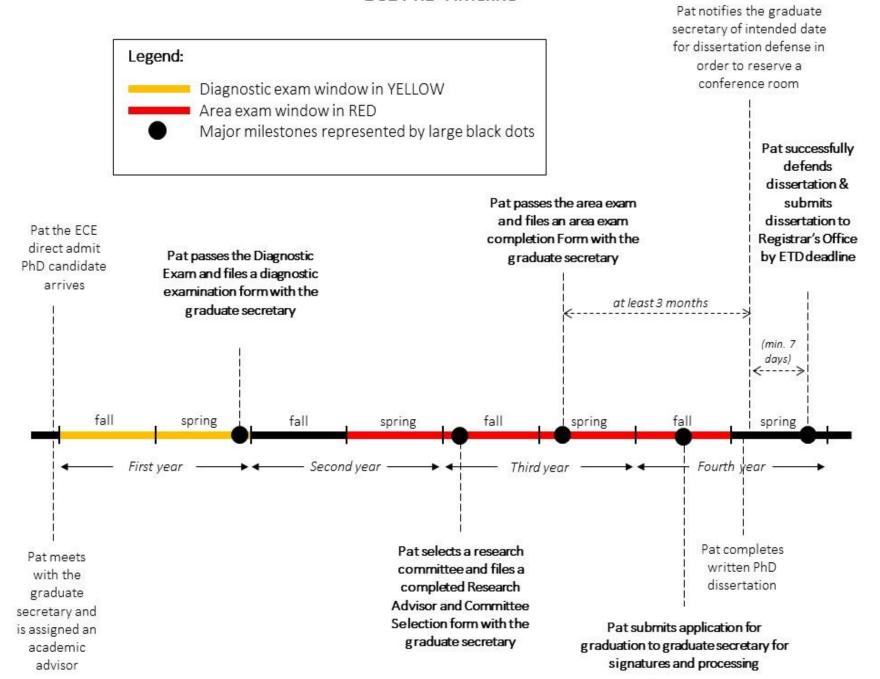


PhD Forms

- Research Committee Forms are completed once a PhD student has selected their research advisor, which is usually by the beginning of the student's second semester in the PhD program and must be filed with Colleen in the ECE office prior to taking their Diagnostic Exam.
- Diagnostic and Area Exam Forms are to be completed once the PhD student has completed each of these exams. Colleen will send a hard copy of the completed forms to the registrar's office and will keep the original in the student's file in the ECE office..
- The PhD Timeline*, shown on the following slide, gives PhD students an idea of the amount of time it should take for them to complete the various stages of their degree program.

(*Please note that the information listed on this timeline is subject to approval by the student's research advisor).

ECE PhD Timeline



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ECE Funding Opportunities



- ➤ **Research Assistants*** Please visit ECE's research pages (http://www.wpi.edu/academics/ece/research.html) for information on the department's research labs and to check for open RA positions.
- ➤ **Teaching Assistants and Graduate Tutor Positions*** Students interested in TA or tutor positions should contact Professor Reinhold Ludwig and let him know which classes you would be interested in being a TA or tutor for as well as the grades your received for these classes. These positions are usually assigned mid-summer for fall openings and the end of fall semester for spring openings.
- ➤ **Graduate Internships** Students are responsible for obtaining their own internship positions and will need to fill out CPT forms (for international students only). Start and end dates <u>must</u> follow the academic calendar and are only allowed for paid positions. Students should speak to their advisors in regards to what evaluation materials will need to be submitted at the end of their internship.

^{*}New students who have been awarded RA or TA positions should see Colleen in the ECE office for additional information regarding paychecks, mailboxes, forms, etc.

ECE Academic Advisors



Why do I need an academic advisor?

Advisors can answer questions you may have regarding courses, course pre-requisites or research opportunities, as well as any questions you may have about your graduate program. They can also help with other problems that may require a graduate petition which would need their approval.

- How do I know if I have been assigned an advisor?
 - Please see Colleen Sweeney in the ECE office if you haven't done so already, and she will let you know who your advisor is and how to contact them.
- > Am I allowed to change my advisor? What is the process?
 - If for any reason, you decide to change your academic advisor, please see Colleen in the ECE office and she will assign you a different advisor and will update your file accordingly.
- ➤ If I decide to do research with a different faculty member than my advisor, can I use my research advisor as my academic advisor?
 - Students can use their research advisor as their academic advisor for their degree programs but they should contact Colleen to let her know so this change can be noted in your file.



Department Policies and Expectations on Academic Honesty

The following slides are a review of what the ECE Department refers to as academic dishonesty as well as the procedural flowchart for dishonesty violations.

Department Policies & Expectations on Academic Honesty*



What is considered academic dishonesty?

- Fabrication (examples)
 - ✓ Altering grades or other official records
 - ✓ Changing exam solutions after the fact
 - ✓ Inventing or changing laboratory data
 - ✓ Falsifying research
 - ✓ Inventing sources
 - ✓ Sabotaging another student's work or academic record
- Plagiarism (examples)
 - ✓ Misrepresenting the work of another as one's own
 - ✓ Inaccurately or inadequately citing sources, including those from the Internet

^{*}Text taken from WPI handbook "Student Guide to Academic Integrity"

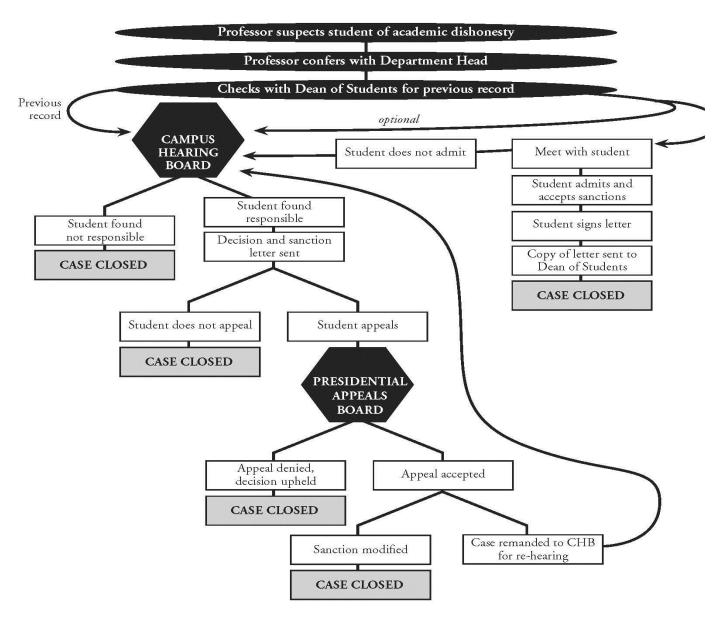
Department Policies & Expectations on Academic Honesty*



- Cheating (examples)
 - ✓ Using purchased term papers
 - ✓ Copying exams, homework, or take-home exams
 - ✓ Using unauthorized materials or sources of information (e.g., cheat sheet, preprogrammed calculator)
 - ✓ Assisting another person in cases where prohibited
- Facilitation (examples)
 - ✓ Sharing test questions or answers from an exam with another student
 - ✓ Letting another student copy a solution to a homework problem, exam, or lab
 - ✓ Taking an exam for another student
 - ✓ Assisting in any act of academic dishonesty of another student

^{*}Text taken from WPI handbook "Student Guide to Academic Integrity"

WPI's Procedural Flowchart for Academic Dishonesty Violations*



Miscellaneous Information...



Printing Services

- ECE Students can make copies as well as scan or fax documents in the ECE office. (Printing Fee: B & W 10¢/pg. and Color 30¢/pg. Scanning & faxing options are free).
- ECE Plotter The office plotter can print posters up to 24" wide for students and faculty who need research posters printed for conferences or for other research events on campus. (Free for ECE students and faculty only. Students from other departments will be required to pay for poster printing usual cost of a 24 x 36 inch poster is \$12) Please see Colleen in the ECE office for more information.

Graduate Student Mailboxes

• Colleen will send an email to the ECE grad students once the fall semester has begun in regards to mailboxes for the current academic year

(*RA's and TA's will have mail slots assigned to them in the ECE office mailroom.)

Miscellaneous Information...



Mail and Package Services

 Students having packages or letters mailed to them at WPI should make sure that the sender includes the following information on any correspondence:

Student's Name ECE Department, WPI 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609

(<u>Note</u>: Packages or letters that do not have this information will be sent back to the post office and will be returned to sender.)

- Packages that have been delivered for students can be picked up from the ECE office.
 Students will be sent an email to let them know that they have a package that needs to be picked up.
- Stamps/Postage students in need of postage for letters or small packages will need to bring them to the WPI mailroom (bottom floor of the campus center).
- UPS drop off students having packages shipped UPS can bring them to the ECE office mailroom for pick-up. Be sure that the UPS label is attached!
- Federal Express packages Please see one of the admins in the ECE office for more information.



The answers to the ECE Department's most frequently asked questions can be found below and on the subsequent slides. If you don't see the question and answer you are looking for, please let us know!

How long will it take me to finish my degree program?

Length of the degree programs vary based on the type of degree and whether the student is full-time or part-time.

The total number of tuition credits needed for the MS program is 30 credits. On average, a full-time MS student, taking 9 credits (3 classes) per semester, will be able to complete the requirements for their degree program in about two years or less. Part-time students, taking one to two classes per semester, can complete their degree program in about 3 to 5 years.

The Ph.D. program requires students to complete 30 credits of coursework and an additional 30 credits of research. Full-time students pursuing a Ph.D. degree can usually complete their degree requirements in about 3 or 4 years depending on the number of credits the student has completed each semester.



Are grad students allowed to take undergraduate courses for graduate credit?

Graduate students are allowed to up to two 4000-level ECE courses that can be used towards their graduate course requirements. The credit hours will then be adjusted/converted from 3.0 to 2.0 for the graduate credit. It is important to note that graduate students cannot register for undergraduate courses because of their level restrictions and will need to contact Jeannette Dailida (<u>jdailida@wpi.edu</u>) in the registrar's office in order to register for these courses. See below for further instructions.

How do I register for directed research, independent study or thesis & dissertation credits?

Please contact Jeannette Dailida (<u>jdailida@wpi.edu</u>) in the registrar's office to register for these credits and provide her with the following information:

- Your name and ID number
- The type of credits you are registering for
- The number of credits you are registering for
- The name of your research advisor



What is the department's policy regarding internships and is it possible to register for tuition credits during the semester that the internship takes place?

- Students who are offered an internship position that will take place during the academic year must follow WPI's academic calendar! Students will need to register for ECE 597 for zero credits which is used as a placeholder for the internship on the student's transcripts. Please note that internship positions must be directly related to the student's graduate program and the courses listed on their plan of study form!
- Students who receive internship positions will need to meet with their advisor to discuss what will be expected of them once their internship has ended (i.e. paper, PPT presentation, etc. summarizing the details of the internship which should also include contact information for their immediate supervisor so that the information in their report can be verified).
- Student's working on a full-time internship will not be allowed to register for any additional course credits during the semester in which they are interning. Students working 20 hours or less per week will be allowed to register for no more than two courses (6 credits).



Internships (continued from previous slide)

International students who are offered internship positions must fill out a CPT form (Curricular Practical Training) along with an updated program of study form with the internship credit listed. Both forms will need to be signed off by the student's academic advisor then brought to Colleen in the ECE office so that she can make copies that will be put in the student's file. Then the completed forms will need to be brought to the International House for processing.

How many credits am I allowed to transfer for courses taken at another university?

Students can transfer up to 9 credits (3 courses) of coursework taken at another university provided that the courses are comparable to ones offered at WPI and the grades received were a B or better and providing that the courses being transferred were not used towards a previous degree. Transfer credit forms must be completed for any courses being transferred and must include the course description, syllabus, the book used and the homework assignments given. An updated program of study form with the transfer courses listed, must also be included.



What if I fail a course or end up on academic probation?

Failed courses will have a definite impact on a student's GPA but as long as they maintain a 2.76 GPA, they will be allowed to register for additional courses in order to improve their GPA and meet the 3.0 GPA requirement for graduation. Please note that the grade for any failed course will remain on the student's transcript.

Students who end up with a CQPA (Cumulative Quality Point Average) of 2.65 or below at the end of the semester, will be put on a Pass/Fail for any future courses that are taken. Before a student is allowed to receive letter grades again, they will need to fill out and submit an **ECE Graduate Petition Form** explaining the reasons for their poor academic performance as well as how they intend to improve their grades going forward. The completed form will need to be signed off by the student's academic advisor and then submitted to Colleen in the ECE office and she will forward the petition to ECE's Graduate Program Committee to review.

If I retake a failed course and receive a better grade, which of these letter grades will be listed on my transcript?

The better of the two grades received for that course will be evaluated in the academic review process and the graduation requirements, however both grades will be counted in the overall GPA on your transcript. If the student decides to take a different course, the course with the higher grade will remain on the student's transcript and will count in their overall GPA.



What are the graduate seminar course requirements?

Full-time ECE graduate students are required to register and pass two semesters of ECE Graduate Seminar for the MS, MENG and PhD degree programs and BSMS students are only required to pass one semester of graduate seminar. Number of seminars needed to pass vary by instructor. Students should attend the first seminar meeting of the semester to find out the specifics.

Where can I find a listing of ECE's course schedules for the upcoming academic year?

All course schedules, past and present and future, can be found on the registrar's web pages.

What are the graduation dates for the academic year?

WPI graduation dates are in October, February and May. Application for graduation forms must be filled out and submitted to Colleen in the ECE office for signatures so that the completed forms can be sent to the registrar's office by the deadlines listed on the application for graduation forms (October - July 1st, February - October 1st, May - February 1st).



How do I reserve an ECE conference room?

Atwater Kent conference rooms are available for student's to reserve for help sessions, meetings, etc. Please email ecesec@wpi.edu or stop by the ECE office and one of the admins will be able to assist you with your request. If you send an email, please include the day, time and room number that you wish to reserve and we will book it for you if it is available.

What is the process for ordering a key for a research lab or grad office?

Since most of the research labs now have key pads that require a special pass code in order to open the doors, keys are not usually needed any longer in Atwater Kent. If your research advisor's lab does require a brass key, you will need to see Colleen in the ECE office and she will order you a key once she has confirmed this request with your advisor.

A \$25.00 key deposit is required for any keys that are signed out by students and will be refunded once they have been returned to the ECE office.



Thank you for attending!*

We look forward to helping you achieve your academic goals!

(*<u>Please Note</u>: Today's presentation slides will be posted on our ECE web page under "Graduate Programs" for students to reference.)