The procedures to be followed in creating, administering, and taking the Master’s Course Option Comprehensive Examination (CE) within the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering are set forth in this document. The CE is administered simultaneously with the EECE PhD Written Qualifying Exam (WQE).

I. Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the CE rests with the EECE Graduate Committee, overseen by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The committee determines the form of the exam, sets the level of performance students must achieve in order to pass, and reviews the results after each offering.

The EECE graduate office handles the registration of students for the CE, verifies their eligibility, distributes the “Preliminary WQE/CE Topics and References” and the “Final WQE/CE Topics and References” to those who have registered, and reports the results of the exam to the students.

II. General Structure of the CE

1. The CE is a five-hour examination, consisting of two parts:
   a) the required EECE graduate courses, Mathematics and Methods in Engineering and Random Variables and Stochastic Processes, (3 hours),
   b) a selected major area (2 hours)

2. Only basic scientific calculators are allowed during the exam.

3. Reference materials outlining the exam contents are listed initially in the “Preliminary CE/WQE Topics and References” document, and finalized in the “Final CE/WQE Topics and References” document. This will include reference and study guide information, as well as exam format (open book, closed book, etc.).
III. Timetable and Procedures

1. The CE is offered simultaneously with the WQE, and offered twice a year, the first one in August, and the second in January (before the beginning of the Spring Semester).

2. At the beginning of each semester, students must register with the department that they wish to take the qualifying exam at the next offering, and indicate their desired major area.

3. Procedures for question preparation are the same as those for the WQE, guided by the graduate and WQE committees. Names of faculty writing questions are not revealed to students, and all questions must be directed to the DGS. See the “EECE Rules and Procedures for the PhD Written Qualifying Exam” for further details.

IV. Results

1. A passing grade is a total score of 70% or better with a weight of 60% for the fundamentals exam and 40% for the major area exam.

2. Students will be informed in writing within three weeks of the results of the CE. Students who pass are certified to graduate with their M.S. degrees, contingent on completion of the necessary coursework for the program. Students who fail must retake the exam the next time it is offered.

3. Students who fail the second CE attempt may petition the EECE Graduate Committee for approval to retake the exam at its next offering, for a third time. The petition to take the CE a third time should be made to the department chair who may approve it or forward the petition to the Graduate Committee for their consideration. The student will not be allowed to appear before the EECE Graduate Committee. This petition exhausts the student’s right of appeal. *Students who fail a third CE attempt do not meet graduation criteria for the course option M.S. program, and their programs will be terminated.*