



EECS DUAL DEGREE PETITIONING PROCESS

A student may request approval to pursue master's degrees in two fields simultaneously, using a single thesis to meet the degree requirements for each department. A student who chooses this academic degree path is thus pursuing a [dual degree](#).

This degree plan is intended for qualified graduate students who seek academic recognition in two professional fields that, although distinct, have a substantial intellectual connection. The degree plan requires a balanced choice of academic subjects, made with the advice of each of two departments, and by selection of the thesis topic.

To satisfy the minimum requirements for the EECS SM degree program, the student must complete at least 66 subject units and 1 unit of the [Professional Perspective Requirement](#) (6.9940).

To petition for a dual master's degree between EECS and the student's home department, the student must:

1. Meet with their home department and Liza Ruano within the EECS Graduate Office to discuss the petitioning process and dual degree requirements
2. Submit the following materials at least **2 terms in advance** of the intended completion of the dual degree:
 - a. Most up-to-date CV
 - b. MIT grade report
 - c. Proposed course plan for both degrees*
 - d. SM thesis proposal on 1 topic of interest in both departments (incl. cover page, timeline, references)
 - e. Two short essays regarding your research activities and goals; and your academic and intellectual journey (see below)
 - f. One letter of recommendation from current thesis supervisor or graduate counselor
3. Identify an EECS faculty member that will act as the student's thesis reader**

** There is no "double dipping" between the home department and EECS unit requirements. Each subject unit must be separate and distinct to each degree. The 66 subject units must comprise of 48 units of technical graduate coursework and 18 units of elective graduate coursework. Electives must be directly related to the student's thesis; to electrical engineering and/or computer science; and to the student's future plans after the culmination of the dual degree. All subject units must be taken for a letter grade; P/D/F grading options are not permissible for the EECS SM.*

*** This reader may not be a research affiliate or adjunct professor. Dual-degree students within EECS are welcome to work with outside faculty, but the department requires that they also have an active sitting EECS faculty member recorded as a thesis reader or even a co-thesis supervisor. This ensures that students have another layer of support to keep their shared thesis on track; and another resource for EECS-related coursework.*



Essay 1: Research Activities and Goals

Please describe your research-related background and the substantive research questions you are interested in pursuing during your graduate studies. Also explain how a dual master's program would help you achieve your intellectual goals. (1000 words maximum)

For this essay, you may include applicable information on any of the following:

- Your aptitude and motivation for graduate study in your area of specialization, including your preparation for this field of study.
- Past experiences through which you developed skills relevant for research (can include major class projects, research, commercial, government, or teaching experiences)
- Experiences that shaped your research ambitions.
- Your goals after you complete your degree, and how our graduate program will help you achieve your immediate and longer-term future career objectives.

Essay 2: Academic and Intellectual Journey

Please provide a brief statement (500 words maximum) detailing how your personal background, interests, and/or experiences have affected your journey toward pursuing a graduate degree.

For this essay, you may include applicable information on any of following:

- Why do you want to pursue a dual degree and what is your goal in pursuing a dual degree?
- How your personal, academic, and/or professional experiences demonstrate your ability to be both persistent and resilient especially when navigating challenging circumstances.
- How you have experienced barriers on your academic path and how you surmounted those barriers.
- How your personal background has equipped you to work within diverse communities.
- Any experience you have in service and/or leadership.
- Any additional information about how you might contribute to a culture of belonging, inclusion and respect in our community.

Once the student has submitted the required materials and identified an EECS faculty thesis reader, the department will review the student's dual degree application for final approval into the program. To be eligible to participate in a dual degree program, students must meet the admissions criteria of both departments.

If the EECS department approves the student's application for the dual degree, the student must then submit a formal [petition](#) through the Office of Graduate Education (OGE). Once the petition is signed by the home department, Liza Ruano will sign on behalf of EECS and forward it to OGE for final processing.