

# ACOUSTICS

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree is a non-thesis professional master's degree, and it may be earned by resident students at University Park or through distance education. The Master of Engineering degree is based on graduate course work and a written paper or a developmental study must be submitted to the Acoustics program. Normally, such a paper represents a study of a particular topic that is more limited than that necessary for a thesis. The paper is free of any formal requirements of the Graduate School, but it is expected that the student will use the Thesis Guide as an example of the appropriate format. The total number of credits required for the M. Eng. degree is 30 of which 18 credits must be from 500-level approved core courses in Acoustics. The 12 non-core course credits may be selected from the "Required and Approved" list of courses issued by the Acoustics Program Office. Students may take more than one credit of Colloquium (ACS 590) and more than six credits of Individual Study (ACS 596), but such additional credits cannot be applied to the total number of course credits required. Master of Engineering students may not apply research credits (ACS 600) to the total number of course credits required. The expected duration to complete the M.Eng. degree is 2 years for resident students.

### Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree program is based on a combination of graduate course work and research training that is documented and culminates (a) in a Master of Science thesis or (b) in a scholarly paper. The M.S. degree in Acoustics is only available for resident students at University Park. For track (a) both the course selection and research are directed by an adviser. When the student is working on the thesis research, at least two other faculty members, upon the adviser's suggestion, will be recommended to the Program Chair who will approve the thesis committee. The total number of credits required for the M.S. degree is 30, and at least 20 of those credits must be taken at University Park. 24 course credits are required, of which 18 must be from approved 500-level acoustics core courses. 6 Thesis Research credits (ACS 600) are required for students writing a Master of Science Thesis.

The scholarly paper track (b) is only available for students participating in the one-year M.S. program that requires 12-month continuous registration. As part of the one-year M.S. program students must take one credit of Research Topics (ACS 594) in both the fall and spring semesters, and take a special summer course, Contemporary Research Topics in Acoustics (ACS 580). The scholarly paper will be developed in the ACS 594 classes and will normally be completed as part of ACS 580. This paper will typically be a study of a particular topic that is more limited than that necessary for a thesis. The paper is free of any formal requirements of the Graduate School, but it is expected that the student will use the formatting as described in the Thesis Guide. Students in the one-year M.S. program will not take any Thesis Research credits (ACS 600). The total number of credits required for the M.S. degree is

30, and at least 20 of those credits must be taken at University Park. 24 course credits are required, of which 18 must be from approved 500-level acoustics core courses.

The 6 non-core course credits for either track may be selected from the "Required and Approved" list of courses issued by the Acoustics Program Office. Students may take more than one credit of Colloquium (ACS 590) and more than six credits of Individual Studies (ACS 596) for the paper track or Thesis Research (ACS 600) for the thesis track, but such additional credits cannot be applied to the total number of course credits required for the M.S. degree. The expected duration to complete the M.S. degree with thesis is 2 to 2.5 years and approximately 1 year for students in the one-year resident M.S. program.

### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is conferred in recognition of high attainment and productive scholarship. A candidate for the Ph.D. degree must pass the English proficiency and qualifying examinations, prepare and defend a dissertation proposal as part of the comprehensive examination, pass the final oral examination (dissertation defense), and the dissertation must be approved by the Ph.D. committee. Ph.D. students are required to take 21 credits of 500-level Acoustics core courses, but the Ph.D. committee may require the doctoral candidate to take specific additional courses. In addition, a Ph.D. candidate must satisfy the Graduate Council residency requirement by registering for two consecutive semesters, fall and spring, as a full-time student. Post-comprehensive exam, continuous registration is required until the thesis has been approved. Penn State's Graduate School allows eight years from successful completion of the qualifying exam for completion of a doctoral degree. The expected duration to complete the Ph.D. degree is 3 years after the completion of a master's degree or 5 years without a master's degree.