



GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

The Civil and Environmental Engineering department offers advanced degree programs with emphasis on a variety of specialization areas leading up to the following degrees: Master of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy.

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In addition to being in agreement with the regulations stated in this departmental handbook, students must also be in agreement with the General Announcements and the Code of Conduct.

http://ga.rice.edu/GR_policies/

Table of Contents

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | Degree Requirements PhD..... | 3-10 |
| | 1.1 Degree Requirements PhD | |
| | 1.2 Preliminary Exam | |
| | 1.3 Thesis Committee | |
| | 1.4 Qualifying Exam | |
| | 1.5 Approval of Candidacy | |
| | 1.6 Request for Extension of Time to Candidacy | |
| | 1.7 PhD Defense | |
| | 1.8 Acceptance of Thesis | |
| | 1.9 Graduation | |
| | 2.0 Suggested Timeline | |
| 2 | Degree Requirements MS..... | 11-14 |
| | 2.1 Degree Requirements MS | |
| | 2.2 Approval of Candidacy | |
| | 2.3 Request for Extension of Time to Candidacy | |
| | 2.4 MS Defense | |
| | 2.5 Acceptance of Thesis | |
| | 2.6 Graduation | |
| | 2.7 Suggested Timeline | |
| 3 | Degree Requirements MCEE | 15-18 |
| 4 | Annual Performance Review | 19 |
| 5 | Seminar Policy | 20 |
| 6 | Guidelines for Dismissals,..... Petitions, Appeals, Grievances, & Problem Resolution | 21-23 |
| 7 | Title IX..... | 23 |
| 8 | Academic Regulations and | 24-25 |
| | Registration | |

Degree Requirement - General requirements for graduate degrees can be found in the General Announcement. The requirements outlined below are specific for graduate degrees offered by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Students must meet both the university and department requirements in order to obtain degrees offered by the department.

I. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) REQUIREMENTS

1.1 The Ph.D. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering has two sub tracks: Civil Engineering (CE) and Environmental Engineering and Sciences (EES). In both cases, to earn a Ph.D. degree, students must meet the following requirements:

- Complete 90 credit hours of approved courses past BS (60 credit hours past MS degree) with high standing, including core course requirements stipulated below.
- Pass a preliminary examination (see guidelines below).
- Pass a qualifying examination on course work, proposed research, and related topics.
- Complete a dissertation indicating an ability to do original and scholarly research.
- Pass a formal public oral examination on the thesis and related topics.

As part of the advanced degree training, we also may require students to assist the faculty in courses and laboratory instruction.

Ph.D. students in civil and environmental engineering (environmental track) take the preliminary exam, administered by the department faculty, after 2 semesters of course work. Ph.D. students in civil and environmental engineering (civil track) take the preliminary exam, administered by the department faculty, after 3 semesters of course work. Students who pass this exam then form a doctoral committee according to department requirements.

The qualifying examination is administered by the doctoral committee after students develop a research proposal to demonstrate their preparation for the proposed research and identify any areas requiring additional course work or study.

First Year Course advising – first year graduate students should consult with their thesis advisor to determine which course subjects they should take prior to registration. Semester course load for full-time students is nine hours or more.

Students whose advisor’s primary appointment is in a different department – must follow all CEE department requirements as outlined below.

CEVE GSA program – Students are strongly encouraged to get familiar with the CEE Graduate Student Association (GSA). This is an organization comprised of graduate students whose goal is to make the department and the graduate student experiences an unforgettable one. The CEE GSA is an important mechanism for formal and informal communications between CEE student body and the department. It organizes social events for graduate students, participates in important departmental decisions related to students, and is involved in many departmental and university activities.

Regular opportunities to present research – Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Graduate Student Colloquium, a completely student-run activity. This will give students the opportunity to discuss their research among an audience.

Course Registration - Currently enrolled students register in April for the fall semester and in November for the spring semester. Semester course load for full-time students is nine hours or more. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisor to discuss their courses for the upcoming semester.

Expectations for Independent Study -See syllabus of independent study offered by individual faculty members.

Research hours - The number of research credit hours students register should be in agreement with the amount of time spent on thesis research. Students should speak with their advisors prior to registering for more than 3 credit hours of research.

Core Courses - Course requirements are stipulated to prepare and train students for rigorous and high quality education, research, and practice. These courses, usually completed within the first two years of graduate school, are designed to train and test the student's aptitude for higher level thinking, problem solving, and independent research. Core courses also contribute breadth beyond minimum competency as civil and environmental engineers. A minimum grade of B- must be achieved for each of these core courses, as well as a minimum average GPA of 3.0.

For the CE sub-track, PhD students should take at least 6 of the following 18 courses:

CEVE 500 (S) Advanced Mechanics of Materials
CEVE 503 (F) Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis *
CEVE 505 (F) Engineering Project Management and Economics
CEVE 519 (F) Elasticity, plasticity and damage mechanics *
CEVE 524 (F) Time Dependent System Reliability Modeling *
CEVE 527 (F) Computational Structural Mechanics and FEM *
CEVE 530 (F) Concrete Building Design *
CEVE 538 (S) Computational Nanoscience for Green Infrastructure
CEVE 540 (S) Steel Building Design *
CEVE 554 (F) Computational Fluid Mechanics
CEVE 560 (F) Bridge Engineering & Extreme Events *
CEVE 570 (S) Foundation Engineering
CEVE 576 (S) Structural Dynamic Systems *
CEVE 578 (F) Earthquake Engineering *
CEVE 592 (F) Modeling and Analysis of Networked Systems *
CEVE 596 (S) Offshore and Marine Systems *
CEVE 678 (F) Advanced Stochastic Mechanics *
CEVE 679 (F) Applied Monte Carlo Analysis *

* Offered every two years

For the EES sub-track, Ph.D. students should take at least 6 of the following 10 courses:

CEVE 501 (F) Chemistry for Environmental Engineering and Science
CEVE 504 (S) Atmospheric Particulate Matter
CEVE 509 (S) Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering
CEVE 511 (F) Atmospheric Processes

CEVE 512 (S) Advanced Hydrology and Hydraulics
CEVE 534 (F) Fate and Transport of Contaminants in the Environment
CEVE 535 (S) Physical Chemical Processes for Water Quality Control
CEVE 536 (S) Environmental Biotechnology and Bioremediation
CEVE 544 (F) Environmental Microbiology and Microbial Ecology
CEVE 550 (S) Environmental Organic Chemistry

Substitutions will be considered when a core course is not offered, or under special circumstances related to the professional goals of the student. Substitutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will require approval by the faculty. Potential substitute courses include:

CEVE 518 (S) Contaminant Hydrogeology
CEVE 520 (F) Environmental Remediation Restoration
CEVE 592 (F) Modeling and Analysis of Complex Urban Infrastructure Systems *
* Offered every two years

SEMINARS – Additional Requirement

Students are required to enroll in Seminar, CEVE 601 (fall) and CEVE 602 (spring) each semester while at Rice. Please see Graduate Seminar policy on page 27.

1.2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

All Ph.D. students must take the preliminary examination after completing the core course requirement. Because the core courses provide a basic level of preparation and breadth, the preliminary exam has broader latitude to probe synthesis and high-level thinking skills, rather than serving as a check on coursework.

Civil engineering graduate students will be required to take their written preliminary exam on Friday before the classes of the spring semester, 1.5 years from the fall semester they enter into the program. If a student enters in the spring semester he/she needs to take the exam in the following spring semester along with other students and take the oral exam on Friday of the first week of classes. Environmental engineering students are required to take the preliminary exam in May of the year after they first enter the PhD program, if a student enters in the spring semester he/she is required to take the exam in the following spring along with other students.

For the **CE sub-track**, the format of the Preliminary Exam is as follows:

Day 1: Written Exam (closed book)

2 hours — Applied Mathematics

2 hours — Structures/Mechanics/Linear FEM/Related Areas

2 hours — Structural Dynamic Systems

2 hours — Optional Area: Mechanics/System Reliability/Bridge Eng./Earthquake Eng/ Nonlinear continuum mechanics and Nonlinear FEM/ Struc.Control & Identification/Computational Nanoscience (Optional area can be chosen by the student)

Day 2: Oral Exam 1 hour per student

Civil Engineering faculty examine/question the student about the written exam and additional broad set of topics to assess the students thinking ability, comprehension, problem solving skills, and overall aptitude in the field of structural engineering, structural mechanics, and system reliability.

Students will be informed of the results as they complete their oral examination. Students who fail the exam either fully or partially (conditional pass) will be requested to retake the exam or pertinent subparts. The Preliminary Exam committee decides the extent of the remedial action on a case-by-case basis. Students who fail the preliminary exam twice will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

For the **EES sub-track**, the examination consists of the following.

Day 1: Written Exam

Part I: a three-hour exam on fundamentals of environmental engineering covered in the core courses. This exam does not necessarily test understanding of the specific materials covered in these courses, but knowledge in physical, chemical and biological principles of environmental engineering, as well as mathematics skills that are necessary to solve problems discussed in the courses above. Recognizing that students taking the exam may not have taken all core courses, students will have the flexibility to answer four (4) out of all sets of questions posed by the professors of the environmental engineering and science program. Unless otherwise stated, Part I is closed-book.

Part II: a 3-hour open-book exam in specialized areas of environmental engineering. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate the student's depth of knowledge in subjects relevant to his or her research topic. The student will be given one comprehensive, in-depth question by the thesis advisor. The graduate committee will exercise quality control of the exam questions to ensure that these questions are not a simple extension of those in Part I.

Day 2: Oral Exam

The oral examination takes 30-45 minutes per student. It is a general exam on common topics of environmental engineering, with the intent to probe for high-level thinking across broad themes. A faculty committee will preside over the exam and each committee member may ask questions. The questions may or may not be related to those in the written exam.

Students will be informed of the results after all students have finished the oral exam. Students who fail the exam either fully or partially can petition for retaking the exam. Petitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the department chair, who will consider the advice of both the Preliminary Exam and Graduate Studies committees. Students who fail the preliminary exam twice will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

1.3 THESIS COMMITTEE

After successful passing of the preliminary exam students should then form a doctoral committee. A thesis committee is composed of at least three members. Two, including the committee chair, must be members of the CEE faculty; in doctoral thesis committees one member must have his or her primary appointment in another department within the university. At least three members of the committee must meet one of the following requirements:

- Tenured or tenure-track members of the Rice faculty
- Research faculty holding the rank of faculty fellow, senior faculty fellow, or distinguished faculty fellow
- Faculty who have been certified as thesis committee members by the dean of graduate and postdoctoral studies

The committee chair need not be the thesis director. The chair, however, must be either a tenured or tenured-track member of the CEE department. Additional members of the committee, who may or may not meet the above criteria, may be selected with the approval of the department chair. These would be in addition to the three required members.

In cases where the student and the major advisor disagree on the selection of thesis committee members, the student may file a petition to the department's Graduate Academic Affairs committee. Based on its independent evaluation, the Graduate Academic Affairs committee will approve the thesis committee before the candidacy form may be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoc Studies.

Regular Thesis Committee Meetings - each semester thereafter forming a thesis committee, students should consult with the chair and members of their thesis committee about the nature and progress of research as the work evolves.

Advisor/research group change - Ph.D students can change advisor/research group only after documenting the need and purpose. Such a change has to be approved by both former as well as new Ph.D advisor and the chairman of the department.

Student time off -If absences have to occur, they must be pre-arranged with the Ph.D student's advisor, except for medical and family emergencies, in which cases timely notification is required

1.4 **PH.D QUALIFYING EXAM (Thesis Proposal)**

The qualifying exam must be completed before petitioning for approval of candidacy. PhD students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of the ninth semester of their residency at Rice. The qualifying examination will be administered by the doctoral thesis committee. The committee will evaluate the student's preparation for the proposed research and identifies any areas requiring additional course work or study. Students who fail the qualifying examination will not be granted Ph.D. candidacy. Petition to re-take the exam will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the department chair, who will consider the advice of both the Thesis Committee and the Graduate Studies committee. To complete the qualifying exam, students must:

- Form a thesis committee. PHD students are required to form a doctoral thesis committee as soon as the preliminary exam is passed.
- Prepare a thesis proposal. The thesis proposal should contain reasonably detailed preliminary work and proposed research approach
- Defend thesis proposal during a meeting with the thesis committee. The qualifying exam/ thesis proposal defense must be scheduled at least six months before the final defense.

Note: The thesis proposal defense should be documented using the "Evaluation of PhD Proposal form". Forms should be requested by emailing atorres@rice.edu, when requesting the form please send a copy of the proposal for inclusion in your student record. After the proposal defense is completed, the original forms should be submitted to the graduate program coordinator Andrea Torres.

Thesis proposal details - Content and length of the Ph.D. thesis proposal must be finalized in agreement with the advisor. Students actively writing a thesis proposal/thesis are strongly encouraged to register for ENGI 600 Written and Oral Communication Seminar for Engineering Graduate Students (offered spring and fall). This highly interactive seminar emphasizes on how to explain work clearly to a wide range of

audiences, both technical and those outside the area of expertise; all writing and speaking assignments are based on students own research and will receive extensive feedback.

1.5 APPROVAL OF CANDIDACY

In thesis programs, the attainment of candidacy marks the completion of all requirements for the degree other than those related to research leading to the writing, submission, and defense of the thesis.

Requirements include (a) completed required course work, (b) passed required exams, to demonstrate his/her comprehensive grasp of the subject area, (c) demonstrated the ability for effective oral and written communication, and (d) shown the ability to carry on scholarly work in his/her subject area.

- Ph.D. students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of the ninth semester of their residency at Rice.
- Each student's individualized time boundaries are available in Esther. Students who are approaching or who have passed their deadline to candidacy, and who have not met all requirements for candidacy must submit an extension of candidacy request. Extensions are approved on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
- The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies will impose a \$125 reinstatement fee on students who are allowed to continue but have exceeded their time boundaries without prior approval.

All PhD students must submit a petition for approval of candidacy. Candidacy forms may be found on the Graduate and Postdoctoral website: <http://graduate.rice.edu/forms>. Petitions should be submitted to atorres@rice.edu. (Note, the three requested attachments will be added by the department before forms are submitted for approval). After candidacy has been approved by the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, the student can then schedule, in coordination with his or her research advisor, a public thesis defense.

1.6 REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO CANDIDACY

Each student's individualized time boundaries are available in Esther. Students who are approaching or who have passed their deadline to candidacy, and who have not met all requirements for candidacy must submit an extension of candidacy request. Extensions are approved on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Request for extension of time to candidacy may be found on the Graduate and Postdoctoral website <http://graduate.rice.edu/forms>. Petitions should be filled out in consultation with your advisor and submitted to atorres@rice.edu.

1.7 PH.D DEFENSE

Candidates who pass the qualifying exam are required to write a detailed Ph.D. thesis and schedule the Ph.D. defense under the guidance of their advisor and doctoral committee. The Ph.D. thesis must be submitted to the doctoral committee and the department at least two weeks prior to the defense. The Ph.D. defense must be scheduled according to the Rice University graduate school requirements (at least fourteen days prior to the date of the defense). Defense announcements should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by filling out a form online at <http://events.rice.edu/rgs/>. All students must also post flyer announcements in Keck Hall, Ryon Lab, and Mech Lab. Please refer to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website <http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis/> for specific information.

The candidate will make an oral presentation for approximately an hour; the presentation will be open to the public. This will be followed by a question and answer session by the general audience and a closed door question and answer session by the doctoral committee. The candidates who successfully defend their Ph.D. will be awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy.

Note: The thesis defense should be documented using the “Evaluation of PhD Defense form”. Forms should be requested by emailing atorres@rice.edu, when requesting the form please send a copy of your thesis for inclusion in your student record. After the defense is completed, the original forms should be submitted to the graduate program coordinator Andrea Torres.

1.8 ACCEPTENCE OF THESIS

The completed thesis must be submitted in either final or advanced draft form to the members of the thesis committee at least two weeks before the oral examination. A copy of the completed thesis must also be submitted to the department at least two weeks before the oral examination. This copy may be submitted electronically.

In the course of the examination, the thesis committee members may recommend revisions or additions, which must be incorporated in the final thesis. The final thesis must be signed by all committee members.

No later than six months from the date of the examination, candidates who successfully passed the oral examination in defense of their thesis must submit their thesis to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (Refer to the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website <http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis/> for specific instructions regarding how to submit the thesis.)

If the thesis is not ready for final signatures by the end of the six-month period, the “pass” may be revoked and an additional oral defense will need to be scheduled. Application for an extension without reexamination must be made by the candidate with the unanimous support of the thesis committee, endorsed by the school dean, and approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Extensions of this six-month period for completion without reexamination will be granted only in rare circumstances.

1.9 GRADUATION

All degree candidates are required to apply for their degree with the Office of the Registrar during the semester in which they wish to graduate. Students who plan to graduate in August must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office by the end of June. Students who plan to graduate in December must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of October. Students who plan to graduate in May must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of February. Applications for degree can be found in ESTHER. Degrees are conferred three times a year (August, December and May), however, commencement happens once a year. August and December degree candidates are invited to participate in May commencement activities.

1.10 Suggested Time Lines for Ph.D. Students (those admitted after B.S. may follow the M.S. student's guidelines initially and then switch to the following after completion of the M.S.):

- First year: Course work, begin research under direction of advisor as deemed appropriate
- End of first year (for Civil Eng. Students after 1.5 years): Take the preliminary exam
- First semester, second year (for Civil Eng. Students end of second year): Form committee and consult with committee
- Each semester thereafter (at a minimum) consult with committee; meet if necessary (at the discretion of the committee chair)
Ensure that you submit the fall/spring semester progress reports to the department graduate committee with the approval of your advisor
- Third or fourth year: Write and defend proposal in Ph.D. qualifying examination (this should be at least six months before the final defense) followed by petitioning for candidacy

- Final semester: Defense and submit the dissertation

Time Boundaries set by Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Ph.D. students –

- Completion of degree: within 10 years of initial enrollment in the degree program, including any period in which the student was not enrolled or enrolled part time.
- Time to candidacy: before the beginning of the 9th semester of their enrollment.
- Time to thesis defense: before the end of the 16th semester of initial enrollment.
- Time to thesis submission: no later than six months from the date of the final examination. If this deadline is missed, then the student will be required to schedule an additional defense.

II. MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) REQUIREMENTS

2.1 The Master of Science degree is offered in civil and environmental engineering. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees in the General Announcement. To earn a MS degree, students must:

- Complete a minimum of 30 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements
- Complete a minimum of 24 credit hours from approved graduate level courses while maintaining a minimum average GPA of 3.0 [and at least a minimum grade of B].
- Complete a minimum of 6 credit hours of thesis research.
- Select a thesis committee according to department requirements and conduct original research in consultation with the committee.
- Present and defend in oral examination an approved research thesis. Students take the oral exam only after the committee determines the thesis to be in a written format acceptable for public defense. Normally, students take two academic years and the intervening summer to complete the degree.

Students must submit the fall/spring semester progress reports to the department graduate committee with the approval of their advisor.

Please note: Students intending to extend their studies into the Ph.D. degree program should note that the department does not grant an M.S. degree to candidates who have not written a master's thesis.

First Year Course advising - New graduate students should consult with their thesis advisor to determine which course subjects they should take prior to registration. Students who did not matriculate into a specific research group should consult with graduate committee chair members. Semester course load for full-time students is nine hours or more.

CEVE GSA program for 1st year students - Students are strongly encouraged to get familiar with the CEE Graduate Student Association (GSA). This is an organization comprised of graduate students whose goal is to make the department and the graduate student experiences an unforgettable one. The CEE GSA is an important mechanism for formal and informal communications between CEE student body and the department. It organizes social events for graduate students, participates in important departmental decisions related to students, and is involved in many departmental and university activities.

Regular opportunities to present research – Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Graduate Student Colloquium. This will give students the opportunity to discuss their research among an audience.

Expectations for Independent Study -See syllabus of independent study offered by individual faculty members.

Course Registration - Currently enrolled students register in April for the fall semester and in November for the spring semester. Semester course load for full-time students is nine hours or more. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisor to discuss their courses for the upcoming semester.

COURSES - For students focusing on environmental engineering, coursework must include one course in each of the following areas and achieve a minimum grade of B-: environmental chemistry, water treatment, hydrology, and air quality. For students focusing on civil, structural engineering, and mechanics, coursework must include one course in each of the following areas: structural engineering, mechanics, applied mathematics, structural dynamic systems, system reliability and earthquake engineering. Comparable course work completed previously may be substituted for these core courses.

SEMINARS , Additional Requirement- Students must register for CEVE 601 (Fall) and CEVE 602 (Spring) each semester while at Rice. Please see Graduate Seminar policy on page 27.

2.2 MS APPROVAL OF CANDIDACY

Each thesis student must petition for candidacy. Students may take the final oral examination in defense of their thesis only after the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies approves their candidacy. Master's students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of the fifth semester of their residency at Rice. Student's individualized time boundaries are available in Esther. Students who are approaching or who have passed their deadline to candidacy, and who have not met all requirements for candidacy must submit a request for extension. Extensions are approved on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies will impose the \$125 reinstatement fee on students who are allowed to continue but who have exceeded their time boundaries without prior approval.

A MS thesis committee should be formed during the last semester of the MS study or sooner. A MS thesis committee is composed of at least three members. Two members, including the committee chair, must be members of the CEE faculty with their primary appointment in the CEE department; you may have all three members within the CEE faculty for MS committees ONLY. At least three members of the committee must meet one of the following requirements:

- Tenured or tenure-track members of the Rice faculty
- Research faculty holding the rank of faculty fellow, senior faculty fellow, or distinguished faculty fellow
- Faculty who have been certified as thesis committee members by the dean of graduate and postdoctoral studies

The committee chair need not be the thesis director. The chair, however, must be either a tenured or tenured-track member of the CEE department. Additional members of the committee, who may or may not meet the above criteria, may be selected with the approval of the department chair. These would be in addition to the three required members.

In cases where the student and the major advisor disagree on the selection of thesis committee members, the student may file a petition to the department's Graduate Academic Affairs committee. Based on its independent evaluation, the Graduate Academic Affairs committee will approve the thesis committee before the candidacy form may be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoc Studies.

Regular Thesis Committee Meetings - each semester thereafter forming a thesis committee, students should consult with the chair and members of their thesis committee about the nature and progress of research as the work evolves.

Advisor/research group change - students can change advisor/research group only after documenting the need and purpose. Such a change has to be approved by both former as well as new advisor and the chairman of the department.

Thesis proposal details - Content and length of the M.S. thesis must be finalized in agreement with the advisor. Students actively writing a thesis are strongly encouraged to register for ENGI 600 Written and Oral Communication Seminar for Engineering Graduate Students (offered spring and fall). This highly interactive seminar emphasizes on how to explain work clearly to a wide range of audiences, both technical and those outside the area of expertise; all writing and speaking assignments are based on students own research and will receive extensive feedback.

Student time off -If absences have to occur, they must be pre-arranged with the Ph.D student's advisor, except for medical and family emergencies, in which cases timely notification is required.

2.3 REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO CANDIDACY

Each student's individualized time boundaries are available in Esther. Students who are approaching or who have passed their deadline to candidacy, and who have not met all requirements for candidacy must submit an extension of candidacy request. Extensions are approved on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Request for extension of time to candidacy may be found on the Graduate and Postdoctoral website <http://graduate.rice.edu/forms>. Petitions should be filled out in consultation with your advisor and submitted to atorres@rice.edu.

2.4 MS DEFENSE

Master's students must defend their theses before the end of the eighth semester of their residency at Rice. The M.S. thesis must be submitted to the masters committee and the department at least one week prior to the defense. The MS defense must be scheduled and announced to the public according to the Rice University graduate school requirements (at least one week prior to the date of the defense). Defense announcements should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies by filling out the following form: <http://events.rice.edu/rgs/>. All students must also post flyer announcements in Keck Hall, Ryon Lab, and Mech lab. Please refer to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website <http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis/> for specific information.

Note: The thesis defense should be documented using the "Evaluation of MS Defense form". Forms should be requested by emailing atorres@rice.edu, when requesting the form please send a copy of your thesis for inclusion in your student record. After the defense is completed, the original forms should be submitted to the graduate program coordinator Andrea Torres.

2.5 ACCEPTENCE OF THESIS

The completed thesis must be submitted in either final or advanced draft form to the members of the thesis committee at least two weeks before the oral examination. A copy of the completed thesis must also be submitted to the department at least two weeks before the oral examination. The department copy may be submitted electronically to atorres@rice.edu.

In the course of the examination, the thesis committee members may recommend revisions or additions, which must be incorporated in the final thesis. The final thesis must be signed by all committee members.

No later than six months from the date of the examination, candidates who successfully passed the oral examination in defense of their thesis must submit their thesis to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral

Studies. Please refer to the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website <http://graduate.rice.edu/thesis/> for specific instructions regarding how to submit the thesis.

If the thesis is not ready for final signatures by the end of the six-month period, the “pass” may be revoked and an additional oral defense will need to be scheduled. Application for an extension without reexamination must be made by the candidate with the unanimous support of the thesis committee, endorsed by the school dean, and approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Extensions of this six-month period for completion without reexamination will be granted only in rare circumstances.

2.6 GRADUATION

All degree candidates are required to apply for their degree with the Office of the Registrar during the semester in which they wish to graduate. Students who plan to graduate in August must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of June. Students who plan to graduate in December must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of October. Students who plan to graduate in May must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of February. Applications for degree can be found in ESTHER. Degrees are conferred three times a year (August, December and May), however, commencement happens once a year. All August and December degree candidates are invited to participate in May commencement activities.

2.7 SUGGESTED TIME-LINE FOR MS STUDENTS

- First year: Course work, begin research under direction of advisor as deemed appropriate
- End of first year (for Civil eng. Students after 1.5 years): Take the preliminary exam if intending to continue for a Ph.D in the ENVE program.
- First semester, second year: Form committee and consult with committee; meet if necessary (at the discretion of the committee chair) followed by petition for candidacy
- Second year, second semester: Write and defend thesis

Time Boundaries set by Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Masters Students -

- Completion of degree: within 5 years of initial enrollment in the degree program, including any period in which the student was not enrolled or enrolled part time
- Time to candidacy: before the beginning of 5th semester of enrollment
- Time to thesis defense: before the end of 8th semester of enrollment
- Time to thesis submission: no later than six months from the date of the final examination. If this deadline is missed, then the student will be required to schedule an additional defense.

III. MASTER OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING (MCEE) REQUIREMENT

The Master of Civil and Environmental Engineering (MCEE) is a professional non-thesis degree requiring 30 semester hours of approved course work. Students who have a BS or BA degree in any field of engineering or related study may apply. They will complete 30 hours of graduate level courses (24 semester hours must be at Rice University) in our Civil Engineering or Sustainable Environmental Engineering and Design sub-tracks including the required core courses and a final project.

For the final project, students must choose an advisor to work with in the first semester, and register for CEVE 590 with the advisor's approval to conduct the project in the second semester. In the second semester or semester which the final project will be completed, students are required to meet with their advisor to discuss final project details and timeline by the end of the first week of class.

Graduate courses from other departments might count towards the MCEE degree, but need prior approval by CEE Graduate Committee Chairs. Depending on their background, some students may need to fulfill pre-requisites or take remedial engineering courses in addition to the required 30 semester hours to earn the MCEE degree. Students can transfer up to 6 credits of graduate-level courses equivalent to the required courses. For more information on how to transfer credits please email atorres@rice.edu. All professional masters' students must maintain a minimum average GPA of 3.0.

First Year Course advising - in order to determine which course subjects incoming professional masters students should register for, an advising session will be conducted by the graduate committee chairs during the Engineering Professional Master's Program orientation, held on the Friday prior to the first week of fall class. Students are also encouraged to contact the MCEE coordinator before the semester begins to discuss study plans and any specific needs.

3.1 COURSES

Civil Engineering track - Students must complete 10 courses (30 credit hours) as listed below to satisfy the area of specialization in Civil Engineering.

Core Requirements: Students must complete 7 courses, including seminar (19 credit hours) from the following:

- CEVE 500 (S) Advanced Mechanics of Materials [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 503 (F) Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 505 (F) Engineering Project Management and Economics [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 519 (F) Elasticity, Plasticity and Damage Mechanics * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 524 (F) Time Dependent System Reliability Modeling [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 527 (F) Computational Structural Mechanics and FEM* [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 530 (F) Concrete Building Design * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 538 (S) Computational Nanoscience for Green Infrastructure [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 540 (S) Steel Building Design * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 554 (F) Computational Fluid Mechanics [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 560 (F) Bridge Engineering and Extreme Events * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 570 (S) Foundation Engineering [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 576 (S) Structural Dynamic Systems * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 578 (F) Earthquake Engineering * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 592 (F) Modeling and Analysis of Complex Urban Infrastructure Systems * [3 credit hours]

CEVE 596 (S) Offshore and Marine Systems * [3 credit hours]
CEVE 601 (F) Seminar [1 credit hour] or CEVE 602 (S) [1 credit hour]
CEVE 678 (F) Advanced Stochastic Mechanics * [3 credit hours]
CEVE 679 (F) Applied Monte Carlo Analysis * [3 credit hours]

Electives - To fulfill the remaining requirements for the area of specialization in Civil Engineering, students must complete 3 courses (9 credit hours) as listed below.

Directed Civil Engineering Electives - Students must complete a total of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the Core Requirements or from the following:

CAAM 453 (F) Numerical Analysis * [3 credit hours]
CEVE 555 (S) Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations * [3 credit hours]
MECH 502 (S) Vibrations * [3 credit hours]
MECH 517 (S) Finite Element Methods * [3 credit hours]
MECH 665 (S) Analysis of Vibrations in Nonlinear Systems * * [3 credit hours]

Professional Development Electives - Students must complete 1 course (3 credit hours) from the following:

ANTH 532 (S) The Social Life of Clean Energy * [3 credit hours]
CEVE 507 (S) Energy and the Environment * [3 credit hours]
CEVE 406 (S) Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development * [3 credit hours]
CEVE 528 (S/F) Engineering Economics * [3 credit hours]
ECON 437 (F) Energy Economics (pre-req. ECON 301 OR ECON 370) * [3 credit hours]
ENGI 529 (F) Engineering Leadership and Ethics * [3 credit hours]
NSCI 511 (F) Science Policy and Ethics * [3 credit hours]
NSCI 610 (F) Management for Science/Engineering * [3 credit hours]

* Offered every two years

Sustainable Environmental Engineering and Design track - Students must complete a total of 10 courses (30 credit hours) as listed below to satisfy the area of specialization in Sustainable and Environmental and Design.

Core Requirements[†] - Students must complete the following 7 courses (19 credit hours):

CEVE 501 (F) Chemistry for Environmental Engineering and Science (w/o lab) [3 credit hours]
CEVE 502 (F) Sustainable Engineering Design [3 credit hours]
CEVE 509 (S) Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering [3 credit hours]
CEVE 511 (F) Atmospheric Processes [3 credit hours]
CEVE 534 (F) Fate and Transport of Contaminants in the Environment [3 credit hours]
CEVE 536 (S) Environmental Biotechnology [3 credit hours]
CEVE 601 (F) or CEVE 602 (S) Professional Seminar [1 credit hours]

Electives - To fulfill the remaining Sustainable and Environmental Engineering and Design requirements, students must complete 3 additional courses (9 credit hours) from the following:

A. Engineering Science and Technology, choose up to 2 (6 credit hours) from the following:

- CEVE 504 (S) Atmospheric Particulate Matter* [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 505 (F) Engineering Project Development & Management [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 508 (S) Introduction to Air Pollution Control* [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 510 (F) Principles of Environmental Engineering [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 518 (S) Contaminant Hydrogeology * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 520 (F) Environmental Remediation Restoration * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 533 (S) Nanoscience and Nanotechnology [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 535 (S) Physical Chemical Processes for Water Quality Control [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 544 (F) Environmental Microbiology and Microbial Ecology [3 credit hours]
- STAT 485 (S) Quantitative Environmental Decision Making [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 450 (S) Remote Sensing * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 550 (S) Environmental Organic Chemistry [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 592 (F) Modeling and Analysis of Complex Urban Infrastructure Systems * [3 credit hours]

B. Sustainable Resource Management, choose up to 1 (3 credit hours):

- ANTH 532 The Social Life of Clean Energy * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 406 (S) Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 507 (S) Energy and the Environment * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 528 (S/F) Engineering Economics * [3 credit hours]
- CEVE 529 (F) Engineering Leadership and Ethics * [3 credit hours]
- ECON 437 (F) Energy Economics (pre-requisites ECON 301 OR ECON 370) * [3 credit hours]
- NSCI 511 (S) Science Policy and Ethics * [3 credit hours]
- NSCI 610 (F) Management for Science/Engineering * [3 credit hours]

* Offered every two years

† If a required course or equivalent has been taken, it can be replaced with an Engineering Science and Technology elective.

3.2 MCEE FINAL PROJECT

All MCEE students must complete a 2-credit final project with a faculty member in the CEE department. Through the final project, MCEE students must demonstrate professional written and oral communication skills:

- A. Students write-well organized, coherent papers with few grammatical errors
- B. Students demonstrate ability to describe scientific issues and techniques in writing and in presentation
- C. Students deliver a professional presentation on par with a solid conference presentation
- D. Student responses to questions demonstrate a facility with the issues and techniques immediately relevant to the topic.

Note: MCEE students are required to undergo training with CWOVC on writing and presentation of the final project. **Fall and Spring final project submission requirements:** student should set-up initial meeting with CWOVC by week 10; students should submit first draft to CWOVC by week 13; students should submit final draft to CWOVC by week 14; students should set up last meeting by week 15. Consult with Andrea Torres for further details.

The final project presentation should be documented using the “MCEE Evaluation of Presentation form”. Forms should be requested by emailing atorres@rice.edu, when requesting the form please send a copy of your report/slides for inclusion in your student record. After the presentation is completed, the original forms should be submitted to the graduate program coordinator Andrea Torres.

3.3 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All MCEE students must adhere to the minimum residency requirement of one fall or spring semester in **full-time or part-time** graduate study.

PETITION FOR NON-THESIS MASTERS

Professional Masters students are classified as degree candidates once the “Petition for Certification for Non-Thesis Master’s Degrees” is received and verified by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and all classes have been completed for their degree. Candidacy forms may be found on the Graduate and Postdoctoral website: <http://graduate.rice.edu/forms>. Petitions should be submitted to atorres@rice.edu.

GRADUATION

All degree candidates are required to apply for their degree with the Office of the Registrar during the semester in which they wish to graduate. Students who plan to graduate in August must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of June. Students who plan to graduate in December must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of October. Students who plan to graduate in May must apply for their degree through the Registrar’s Office before the end of February. Applications for degree can be found in ESTHER. Degrees are conferred three times a year (August, December and May), however, commencement happens once a year. All August and December degree candidates are invited to participate in May commencement activities.

TEACHING SERVICE

Every graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is required to perform a modest amount of service as a part of the degree program. Typically, this consists of being an assistant to a professor in an undergraduate/graduate course, and involves grading and /or some tutorial work. It is also meant to provide some exposure to teaching as a part of graduate program.

Teaching Assistance (TA) Guidelines and responsibilities.

1. TAs need to spend a maximum of 20 hours per week (half time) on teaching related tasks including preparing and performing tests for a laboratory course, interacting with students during office hours or tutorial sessions, and grading
2. TAs (in any capacity) or those who will be TAs in the near future must undergo mandatory training offered by George R. Brown School of Engineering or Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). CTE offers training at the beginning of the fall semester and only held once a year, it cover topics such as: Institutional Policies (ADA, FERPA, etc.), Grading and Rubrics, Mentoring, Office Hours, and Other Kinds of One-on-One Teaching, and Teaching Tips.

Semi Annual Performance Review

An annual performance review will be conducted on all graduate students by the Graduate Studies Committee. The purpose of the review is to ensure that students make adequate academic progress and that the faculty provides timely feedback to the students' academic development.

The review will be a comprehensive evaluation of the student's academic performance including course work, research, professional development and other relevant activities. It will be conducted at the end of every fall and spring semester. Additional reviews may be done upon request of the faculty. Students will be reviewed based on the following:

- Course work grades. Transcripts including the spring semester grades will be reviewed. For students who are not doing research (e.g., MCEE students), this will be the only document that will be reviewed.
- An annual report submitted by the graduate student to the advisor by May 15. The report will include 1) a summary of academic activities. This includes but is not limited to manuscripts published, submitted or in preparation, conference presentations, awards, professional organization membership, and other research related activities; 2) a one page description of research progress and plans for the coming year. It is very important for the students to set clear and realistic research objectives for the coming year based on consultation with the research advisor and thesis committee. These objectives will be used to judge the student's research progress in the next review.
- An evaluation letter from the research advisor. The letter must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee by May 31 in the year when the review is conducted.
- Other materials deemed necessary by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A written assessment of the student's academic progress resulting from the review will be sent to the student before the beginning of the fall semester. Students whose academic progress is judged inadequate by the annual review will receive a warning, and be placed on probationary status. Note that an "Unsatisfactory" grade on Ph.D. or M.S. thesis research will most likely result in an unfavorable review. The student will be given a specific time frame within which improvement must be made to the satisfaction of the research advisor and the Graduate Studies Committee. Failure in demonstrating satisfactory improvement will result in dismissal.

It is strongly recommended that students meet with their advisors at least once per semester to define and adjust research objectives and milestones so that the expectations for research and the criteria for adequate progress are clear.

CEVE Graduate Seminar Series 2016-17

Objectives

The Graduate Seminar is a one-credit course offered each term as CEVE 601 in the fall and CEVE 602 in the spring.

The objectives of the graduate seminar series are to:

- broaden the research and professional horizon of our students and faculty in the general field of civil and environmental engineering;
- keep our students and faculty connected to the scientific community and well informed of emerging research and practice areas in civil and environmental engineering;
- strengthen the sense of community and promote intellectual exchange within and beyond the department;
- promote the attendance to university-level talks offered by prominent thinkers and leaders.

Attendance

All CEVE graduate students are required to take the graduate seminar course every semester while registered at Rice. **Students are required to attend all scheduled seminars.** Students are allowed to miss up to 3 seminars. Absences due to conference travel, research, and sick days will be counted towards the 3 allowed absences. Additional absences will only be granted for extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical leave, preapproved extended research travel). S/U grades will be given based on attendance and feedback from the seminar chairs. Students are responsible for signing the roster at each seminar to note their attendance. A grade of U will be given to any student that fails to meet the above requirements. If a student misses more than 3 seminars, they will receive a U grade in the course. In addition to our departmental seminars, students are strongly encouraged to attend specialty seminars in the department, as well as seminars, lectures and other scientific activities outside of the department.

Official “Departmental Seminars” will be held on Fridays from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM. In addition to seminars that are part of the official seminar course, there may be specialty seminars that are of interest to specific research groups. Specialty seminars are not mandatory, but highly encouraged, and will be announced specifically as “Specialty Seminar”. The seminar schedule, along with other departmental and university events, is maintained in OwlSpace under the 601/602 course listing’s schedule tab on: <http://www.ceve.rice.edu/EventsList.aspx?t=365> as well as on the Rice Events Calendar, which feeds to the CEE home page <https://ceve.rice.edu/>. The schedule will continue to develop during the semester. Therefore, students should check the schedule frequently. Seminar announcements will also be made via email and posted flyers.

Seminar organization

Dr. Jamie Padgett (jamie.padgett@rice.edu) and Dr. Lauren Stadler (lauren.stadler@rice.edu) will co-chair the seminar series in Fall 2016. They will coordinate the invitation of speakers that will enrich the intellectual landscape of students, enhance the professional development of junior faculty or enhance the visibility of the department, inviting the speakers, and organizing and advertising their visit. Please contact them for any concerns or requests related to the seminar for Fall 2016. Maria Corcuera is the seminar coordinator. Please copy her on all correspondence at mec3@rice.edu.

Guidelines for Dismissals, Petitions, Appeals, Grievances, and Problem Resolution

Dismissal. Dismissal from the program can result from 1) failure in meeting any university or departmental requirements, 2) a disciplinary violation resulting in a University sanction, and 3) inadequate academic progress.

A student who is failing to meet departmental or university requirements, such as failing to meet grade requirements, failing to pass required examinations by the required time, or failing to advance to candidacy or defend her/his thesis within the required time, is subject to dismissal without further warning.

When a student is judged not to be making adequate academic progress -particularly research - based on the annual performance review or additional reviews conducted by the research advisor, he or she will be warned in writing of the possibility of dismissal and be placed on probationary status. Specific requirements for improvement within a specified time period will be made. If the student does not meet the stated requirement within the time frame specified, he or she will be dismissed by the graduate program. A written notice of dismissal will be sent to the student 15 days before the date of dismissal.

Reduction and termination of financial support. Active participation in required research activities is a basic condition for continued financial support. When a graduate student is placed on probationary status due to inadequate academic progress, the research advisor may decide to reduce or suspend the financial support to the student. Student who are absent from required research activities for continuous two weeks without permission and without mitigating circumstances may be subject to termination of financial support. In addition, they will be judged to be not making adequate academic progress. Thus, if absences have to occur, they must be pre-arranged with the student's advisor, except for medical and family emergencies, in which cases timely notification is required.

Petitions and Appeals. Graduate students may petition for exceptions to academic requirements, regulations, and judgments. A petition regarding University requirements, regulations and judgments must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; such a petition must be accompanied by a recommendation from the Department. When the Department's recommendation is negative, or when the petition requests a major exception, the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies may also obtain the recommendation of the School of Engineering (when relevant) and the Graduate Council.

A petition regarding departmental requirements, regulations, or judgments must be submitted to the Department Chair. Students petitioning must provide documents that support or justify the petition. The petition will be handled by the departmental Petitions, Appeals, and Grievances Committee, which consists of at least three faculty members independent of the cause for the petition. After investigation, the committee will submit a written report to the department chair, describing the circumstances, the decision, and the rationale for the decision. The department chair will convey the final decision to the student.

Petitions regarding academic decisions must be submitted in writing within 15 days from the time that the student knew or should reasonably have known of the decision being petitioned, or within 15 days after an informal effort to resolve the situation has not been successful. Petitions seeking exceptions to academic requirements or regulations should be submitted in writing at least 30 days before the requirement or regulation takes effect. Late petitions may be dismissed, except for unusual situations

when a delay is found justifiable by the unit receiving the petition. Petitions will be acknowledged in writing (including emails) immediately upon their receipt.

A student (or other parties affected by the decision) is allowed only one level of appeal from a decision regarding a petition. In general, the appeal process will be resolved at the lowest level possible. An appeal must be submitted within 15 days from receipt of the decision that is being appealed. Late appeals will be dismissed, except for unusual situations when a delay is justified. Appeals will be acknowledged in writing (including emails) immediately upon their receipt.

A petition/appeal should indicate the requirement, regulation, or judgment that is the subject of the petition/appeal, the specific exception requested, and the grounds for the request. An appeal must indicate why the decision involving the earlier petition was incorrectly decided. Grounds for a petition/appeal could be procedural errors by academic or administrative personnel or special circumstances found to be mitigating by the unit receiving the petition/appeal. Disagreement over evaluation of academic quality will not be considered as an appropriate basis for petitions/appeals unless the evaluation is found to be patently unreasonable by the unit receiving the petition/appeal. Petitions involving a violation of University policy or improper conduct by University personnel will be handled as grievances (see Grievances).

Petitions and appeals will usually be resolved within 30 days of their submission. When such resolution cannot be achieved within 30 days, students will be informed of the delay before the 30 days are over. A resolution of the petition or appeal must be achieved within 60 days.

All time frames in this procedure refer to academic calendar days, and exclude mid-term, inter-term and summer recesses. (This exclusion does not apply to a student who is enrolled during the summer.) All petitions and appeals, as well as responses to petitions and appeals, must be in writing. Email communication is considered to be “in writing”.

Grievances. A grievance is a complaint regarding inappropriate conduct by other students, faculty members, or staff. Inappropriate conduct encompasses both inappropriate personal conduct, such as sexual harassment, as well as inappropriate official conduct, such as violation of University policies. Specific policies exist to address grievances based on discrimination or sexual harassment and these policies must be followed in situations involving these issues. Grievances against another student may be raised with the assistant dean of student judicial programs and addressed under the Code of Student Conduct. In other cases, a student may present a grievance in writing at the lowest appropriate level, typically the department or school. If a satisfactory resolution is not obtained at that level, the student may appeal the outcome of the grievance by presenting the problem at the next administrative level, such as the school, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Provost, or President. Grievances against non-faculty staff members may also be brought to the Employee Relations Director in Rice’s Human Resources office.

The procedures for handling grievances are analogous to those for handling petitions and appeals. Students submitting grievances must so indicate in their submissions.

Problem Resolution. During the course of graduate studies, problems that do not fall under the category of grievances, described above, may arise in the relationship between a graduate student and his/her program or his/her advisor. Students should attempt to resolve such problems by informing the appropriate faculty members and working together to resolve the problem. When attempts to resolve the problem informally are unsuccessful, the following problem-resolution procedure will be used:

1. The student will submit the problem in writing to the department chair, who will then attempt to resolve it.
2. If the student remains unsatisfied, the problem will be presented to the department Graduate Studies Committee for resolution. Both the student and the program chair will submit a written record of their views to this committee.
3. If the student remains unsatisfied, the problem will be referred to a standing subcommittee of the Graduate Council and composed of three faculty members (representing diverse disciplines within the university) and a graduate student, with the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies as an ex-officio member. A written report of proceedings at stage 2 will be presented to the Chair of Graduate Council for forwarding to the subcommittee, along with all other written materials generated during the investigation. The decision of this subcommittee is considered final.

The time frame for handling problem resolution is similar to that for handling petitions, appeals, and grievances. Students may seek guidance on any of these procedures through discussions with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Title IX:

Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of sexual, relationship, or other interpersonal violence, harassment or gender discrimination to seek support. There are many options available both on and off campus for all graduate students, regardless of whether the perpetrator was a fellow student, a staff or faculty member, or someone not affiliated with the university.

Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. The therapists at the Rice Counseling Center and the doctors at Student Health Services are confidential, meaning that Rice will not be informed about the incident if a student discloses to one of these Rice staff members. Rice prioritizes student privacy and safety, and only shares disclosed information on a need-to-know basis.

If you are in need of assistance or simply would like to talk to someone, please call Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center, which includes Title IX Support:

3311/(713) 348-3311

Policies, including Sexual Misconduct Policy and Student Code of Conduct, and more information regarding Title IX can be found at safe.rice.edu

Academic Regulations and Good Standing

Graduate students must meet the following minimums, deadlines, and course or grade requirements to remain in good standing and to graduate from the university. Please also refer to the general announcements http://ga.rice.edu/GR_regulations/Residency - PhD students must complete at least four fall and/or spring semesters in full-time study at Rice University. Minimum residency for master's programs is one fall or spring semester of full-time graduate study, with the exceptions of professional master's program in the school of engineering. For this program, minimum residency is one fall or spring semester in full-time or part-time study.

Full-Time Study - Semester course load for full-time students is nine hours or more for the fall and spring semesters. Full-time enrollment during the summer semester is at least six hours. Graduate programs at Rice generally require full-time study.

Time to Degree - PhD students are required to complete their program, including thesis defense, within 10 years of initial enrollment in the degree program. All master's students are required to complete their program, including thesis defense, within five years of initial enrollment. In both cases, students have a limit of six additional months from the date of defense to submit their theses to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. These time boundaries include any period in which the student was not enrolled or enrolled part time, for whatever reason. Failure to meet any university time to degree deadline may result in the student not being able to continue in their degree program.

Time to Candidacy - PhD students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of the ninth semester of their enrollment at Rice. All master's students must be approved for candidacy before the beginning of the fifth semester of their enrollment at Rice.

Time to Defense - PhD students must defend their theses before the end of the 16th semester of their enrollment at Rice. Master's students must defend their theses before the end of the 8th semester of their enrollment at Rice.

Time to Thesis Submission - Candidates who successfully pass the oral examination in defense of the thesis must submit the thesis to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies no later than six months from the date of the examination.

Standard of Conduct - Students are expected to live up to the high standards Rice sets for its community members, as described in the **Code of Student Conduct**. Graduate students should be in compliance with the Code of Student Conduct at all times and not have holds from Student Judicial Programs or other offices.

Continuous Enrollment - Students must maintain continuous program involvement and enrollment during fall and spring semesters unless granted an official leave of absence.

Drop/Add - During the first two weeks of classes, students may change their registration, add or drop courses without penalty. After the second week, the following conditions apply for add and drops. Graduate students:

- May not add courses after the second week of classes, except in extenuating circumstances and with the approval of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (a \$75 penalty fee per course will be assessed). The student's request to add a course first must be supported and approved by the student's advisor along with the course instructor and then forwarded to the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for consideration.
- May drop courses through the seventh week without penalty.
- May not drop courses after the end of the seventh week of classes, except in extenuating circumstances and with the final approval of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (a \$75 penalty fee per course will be assessed). The student's request to drop a course first must be supported and approved by the student's advisor, the course instructor, the appropriate department chair, and the school dean. Afterward, it should be forwarded to the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for consideration. Students who receive approval to drop a course after the designated drop deadline will receive a grade of "W" (late drop with approval) for that course.