

MSCE Culminating Experience Policy

(Effective Fall 2024)

3rd Edition

A MSCE student can satisfy the culminating experience in one of three ways: 1) A 6-unit Thesis option through CE 6960, 2) A 3-unit Project option through CE 6950, or 3) A 0-unit Comprehensive Exam option through CE 6970. Students should choose one of these three options based on their strengths and interests.

The comprehensive exam is recommended to be three-hours long and focused on the required courses of the particular degree option (refer to the MSCE curricular requirements for each degree option).

A student will only be allowed to select the Comprehensive Exam Option if he/she has: 1) earned an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, 2) fulfilled conditions imposed on the student's conditional admission, and 3) successfully completed the required courses (a student may take the comprehensive exam concurrently with the last required course).

A student satisfying the above conditions must apply to take the exam by Week 14 of the semester prior to the semester the student wishes to take the exam. The application requires the approval of the Comprehensive Exam Committee and the Graduate Coordinator. Upon approval, the student should enroll in the 0-unit Comprehensive Exam course of his/her technical area.

The graduate faculty in each MSCE Option forms the Comprehensive Exam Committee. This committee will prepare and grade the exams.

The CE 6970 comprehensive exam will be given near the end of the semester (by Week 14) depending on department resources and student enrollment. The course offering schedule may vary between different degree options.

A student may be permitted to take the comprehensive exam no more than two times. If a student fails the first comprehensive exam, the student may reapply to take the exam a second time in a future semester. If both attempts result in failure, the student will be disqualified from the program.

A student who has started a project/thesis must have compelling reasons if he/she wants to switch to the Comprehensive Exam Option. Such a request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the student is required to get an approval from his/her current project/thesis advisor. If approved, the student would take the 0-unit CE 6970 Comprehensive Exam course and take additional elective course(s) to satisfy the minimum 30 total units required for the MSCE degree.

Once enrolled in a particular culminating experience, students shall not be permitted to switch culminating experience options.