GENERAL POLICY

Graduate students seeking the Ph.D. degree in Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) must adhere to the following procedures for admission to candidacy.

PROCEDURE

1. Students declared as MSE Ph.D. students must take the qualifying examination offered immediately after the successful completion of all core MSEN courses (i.e., students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each class and maintain an average core class GPA of at least 3.0 for successful completion).

2. Students declared as M.S. students, but planning to apply for admission as a Ph.D., must also take the qualifying examination offered immediately after the completion of all core MSEN courses. M.S. students who do not do so shall be deemed ineligible for admission to the MSE Ph.D. program.

3. Students must pass all components of the qualifying examination to be considered for admission to Ph.D. candidacy. Any student that fails one and only one section of the qualifying examination will be permitted to retake only that section at the next qualifying examination offering. Any student that fails 2 or more sections must retake the entire qualifying examination at the next offering. Students have 2 chances to pass all components of the qualifying examination.

4. A petition to waive the requirements of this policy must be done as follows:
   The student applies for a waiver to the Chair of the Qualifying Exam Committee and provides evidence of either:
   a. All “A” grades in the core courses, or
   b. Passing a prior qualifying exam acceptable to the department. This waiver application must normally be submitted at least one semester prior to the exam.

NOTE: Students passing all core courses with a grade of “A” are encouraged to petition for a waiver of the qualifying examination requirement.