

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE Graduate Requirement: Instructions

Graduate students are increasingly working in areas that span multiple disciplines (or technological areas), and methods of approach are often able to provide advances or contributions to many disparate current problems or to make inroads to numerous new applications. Students are eager to understand career options that may be available to them, either in areas well aligned to their specific research or in areas that differ from their focused graduate research engagement. To enlighten our EECS graduate students to opportunities all must complete the *Professional Perspective Requirement (PPR)*. Details of the requirement are spelled out below.

Each student is expected to submit a plan for satisfying the PPR. To begin this process, go to: [Planning Doctoral Requirements](#) and follow the instructions there.

Details of Requirement:

- A. All EECS graduate (MEng, SM, PhD) students, who matriculate in the summer 2019 and beyond, must complete the *Professional Perspective* to earn the graduate degree. Current students in the EECS graduate (MEng, SM or PhD) program may petition to complete the requirement. [A separate document describes the MEng degree requirements.]
- B. The *Professional Perspective* requires a *minimum* of 2 units for completion of the PhD degree, and 1 unit for completion of the MEng, dual SM and terminal SM degrees. The subjects that will complete the requirement are 6.994 and 6.995 (subject descriptions provided below). C. The *Professional Perspective* requirement includes the following eight options:
 1. **Industry Colloquia:** the student will attend three colloquia or seminars (of their choosing at MIT) during a semester, which focuses on an aspect under investigation by an industrial entity. A short report will be required.¹
 2. **Industry Internship*:** during the summer, or over the Independent Activities Period (IAP), the student will engage in an internship with a company. A short report will be required.¹ Summer registration also has tuition implications.²
 3. **Industry Joint Project:** the research activity of the graduate student consists of a joint collaboration with industry or government lab that leads to co-authored publications, coinventions and patents, visits to the company/government lab and visits by the collaborators to MIT. A short report will be required.¹
 4. **Industry Invitation*:** the student is invited to share their research results by a visit to a company and by delivering research seminars to distribute research contributions. Visits to the company will involve discussions with industry scientists and technical staff. A short report will be required.¹
 5. **Government Internship*:** during the summer, or over the Independent Activities Period (IAP), the student will engage in an internship with a government lab. A short report will be required.¹ Summer registration also has tuition implications.²
 6. **Academic Internship*:** during the period a student may wish to be away from MIT to engage in an academic internship with a peer institution. A short report will be required.¹

¹ A report, summarizing the knowledge learned by the student by attending the colloquia, by participating in the internship, or by visiting the company must be submitted to the Graduate Office.

² If registered during the summer in 6.994 or 6.995, summer tuition per unit of credit will be charged if the internship is a paid internship. [Note: the Registrar determines tuition annually; see [more info here.](#)] For unpaid activities, the student may petition for a waiver of summer tuition.

7. **Training for Academia:** the student will engage in an activity focusing on preparing for academia. A short report will be required.¹
8. **Industrial Entrepreneur*:** for doctoral student only who wishes to engage in entrepreneur activities (such as a start-up activity). Industrial Entrepreneur requires completion of the following doctoral requirements: TQE, RQE, TA, PhD proposal and written approval of the thesis supervisor. Registration in 6.994 or 6.995 is consequent with application for non-resident status approved by the Office of Graduate Education. Non-resident student registration has a tuition fee of 5% of the tuition applied for that semester. MEng and SM graduate students are not eligible for Industrial Entrepreneur. A short report will be required.¹ If non-resident status is granted, the student will register for 6.ThG as a substitution for 6.994 or 6.995.

* When 6.994/6.995 is used to fulfill the Professional Perspective graduate requirement and is directly related to your field of study, international graduate students are eligible to apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT for F-1 visa holders) or Academic Training (AT for J-1 visa holders) from the International Students Office. If 6.994/6.995 cannot be used toward the Professional Perspective academic requirement (due to restrictions), the International Students Office may recommend Optional Practical Training (F-1 visa holders) or Academic Training (J-1 visa holders) with assistance to international graduate students.

6.994 Professional Perspective I

Prereq: None, G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer), 1 unit, grade P/F

Required for Course 6 students in the doctoral program to gain professional perspective in research experiences, academic experiences, and internships in electrical engineering and computer science. Professional perspective options include: internships (with industry, government or academia), industrial colloquia or seminars, research collaboration with industry or government, and professional development for entry into academia or entrepreneurial engagement. For an internship experience, an offer of employment from a company or organization is required prior to enrollment; employers must document work accomplished. A written report is required upon completion of a minimum of 4 weeks of off-campus experiences. Proposals subject to departmental approval. *Consult Department Graduate Office*

6.995 Professional Perspective II

Prereq: 6.994, G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer), 1 unit, grade P/F

Required for Course 6 students in the doctoral program to gain professional perspective in research experiences, academic experiences, and internships in electrical engineering and computer science. Professional perspective options include: internships (with industry, government or academia), industrial colloquia or seminars, research collaboration with industry or government, and professional development for entry into academia or entrepreneurial engagement. For an internship experience, an offer of employment from a company or organization is required prior to enrollment; employers must document work accomplished. A written report is required upon completion of a minimum of 4 weeks of off-campus experiences. Proposals subject to departmental approval. *Consult Department Graduate Office*

Modifications to the Professional Perspective Graduate Requirement:

A petition must be filed in advance for a waiver of the Professional Perspective; 1 unit will be allowed to be waived. Waivers may be granted for students who demonstrate significant engagement with industry or government before matriculation into the graduate program. Graduate students in the MEng, dual SM and terminal SM degrees are not able to waive the Professional Perspective. Petitions for repeating 6.994/9.995 (additional units) of Professional Perspective may be submitted also.