



Teaching Requirement for PhD

The EECS faculty considers one aspect of the academic milestones to the PhD degree to be teaching, which includes the activities involved in studying a topic thoroughly in preparation of explaining the topic to a colleague. Therefore, one PhD milestone is completion of a [teaching fellowship \(TF\) appointment](#) or equivalent activity. (A "teaching fellow" has the same responsibilities in a course as a "teaching assistant," but receives course credit for teaching, and is supported by a fellowship appointment from the department during that semester.) To initiate a teaching fellow appointment, an application must be submitted using the [online application](#). [Note: this is the same process as applying for a teaching assistant (TA) appointment.]

The teaching requirement can be completed in any term beyond the first year of the PhD program (term #3 and higher). When completing the PhD milestone, the graduate student will register for 20 units of 6.9900 for a full-time (20 hours per week) teaching fellowship, or 10 units of 6.9900 for half-time (10 hours per week) teaching fellowship.

Completion of the teaching requirement is awarded for the following situations: full-time (100%) teaching fellow appointment, part-time (50%) teaching fellow appointment, or a volunteer teaching activity. A full-time semester-long teaching fellowship provides support for tuition, 4.5 months of stipend, and pro-rated annual medical insurance. The appointment can originate from the EECS department or outside EECS in another department at MIT. Prior TA activities as an MIT undergraduate or prior to enrolling into the EECS PhD program will not satisfy the teaching requirement. Any fall or spring course session is eligible for completing the teaching requirement. Note that an application for an EECS teaching appointment needs to be submitted early in the previous semester: by October 22 for a spring course, or by March 22 for a fall course.

The teaching requirement for the EECS PhD degree **cannot be waived**. After two applications cycles that result in no teaching appointment, the graduate student may submit a [departmental petition form](#) to substitute an alternate teaching activity of comparable effort to a teaching appointment. Alternate activities may include course development work in collaboration with a faculty member (possibly during summer or Independent Activities Period), or substitute teaching while a faculty member is unavailable. Other activities may include teaching engagements with high school students, research mentorship of undergraduate students, visiting students, or junior doctoral students. Working as a member of the EECS Communication Lab or as a leader of the EECS Graduate Application Assistance Program (GAAP) are acceptable substitutions also. The EECS departmental petition form requires approval of the graduate counselor and the research supervisor. Alternate teaching petitions will be evaluated by the EECS Committee on Graduate Students and approved by the EECS graduate officer.