6.9991: Academic Progress in PhD – Technical Proposal for Master of Science (SM) in EECS

Prereq: none
G (Spring, Fall)
6 units
Can be repeated for credit.
For Course 6 graduate students, a technical proposal is required as part of the Master of Science (SM) degree; the SM degree is a milestone of the EECS PhD degree. This subject provides academic credit for the preparation of the SM proposal. A properly formatted SM proposal, approved by the thesis supervisor is required. Proposals subject to departmental approval.
[Grade Options: J/J-/U/P/D/F]
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6.9991 Syllabus

This subject has a single deliverable which is the creation of a thesis proposal describing the research that will be completed for the Master of Science degree in EECS. The thesis research and the thesis proposal are approved by the research supervisor. [Those enrolled in the subject will not meet as a class. All questions pertaining to this subject should be sent to Meredith Bittrich at bittrich@mit.edu or Prof. Kolodziejski at leskolo@mit.edu.] The following activities are suggested with timelines in alignment with a semester.

1. Thesis Proposal Outline: discuss with your research supervisor the goals of the thesis research. Carry out preliminary investigations of prior work via a literature review. Describe experiments that are necessary; identify equipment or tools or labs that will be used for the experiments. For each activity, estimate a timeline needed to complete the work. Prepare a detailed outline that describes the chapters planned for the thesis. The research supervisor will provide feedback regarding the outline. The detailed outline should be agreed upon by Add Date [March 6, 2026] of the semester.
2. Thesis Proposal Draft: using the proposal outline, a thesis proposal will be drafted describing in greater detail each chapter of the thesis. The thesis proposal draft is due by Drop Date of the Spring 2026 semester [April 21, 2026] and will be provided to the research supervisor for review and feedback. [The research supervisor may request the thesis proposal draft at an earlier date.]
3. After iteration of the draft due to feedback from the research supervisor, a final thesis proposal is prepared with a standard cover sheet that requires the signature of the research supervisor. The approved and signed thesis proposal is due on the last day of finals week for the Spring 2026 semester [May 20, 2026].

4. To complete the subject and to be assigned a grade of P (pass), submit the approved and signed thesis proposal to the EECS graduate office during finals week of the Spring 2026 Semester [May15-20th, 2026].
5. If the EECS graduate office does not receive the approved and signed thesis proposal by the last day of the finals period [May 20, 2026] a grade of J- will be assigned. Enrollment in 6.9991 will be required for a second semester with approximate activities and timelines as described by 1-4 above.

Resources Available to you:

- EECS Grad - PhD Status Portal: https://eecsis.mit.edu/phd_status.cgi
- EECS Grad - Academic Milestones Page: Academic Milestones of PhD in EECS – MIT EECS
- EECS Grad - Road to the PhD 6.9991 Page: Road to the PhD – MIT EECS
- EECS Grad - Thesis Proposal & Thesis Guidelines: Thesis Proposal and Thesis Guidelines
- MIT Comm Lab - Thesis Proposal Page: Thesis Proposal : EECS Communication Lab
- MIT Thesis Specifications - MIT Specifications for Thesis Preparation | Distinctive Collections