6.9993 Academic Progress in PhD – Research Qualifying Exam

Prereq: TQE must be satisfactorily completed.
G (Spring, Fall)
6 units
Can be repeated for credit.
For Course 6 graduate students, completion of the research qualifying exam is a milestone of the EECS PhD degree. This subject provides academic credit for the preparation and completion of the exam.
[Grade Options: J/J-/U/P/D/F]
M.K Bittrich, L. A. Kolodziejski

6.9993 Syllabus

This subject has a single outcome which is the successful completion of the EECS research qualifying examination (RQE). The RQE is the second part of the EECS PhD qualifying activity taking place after the successful completion of the technical qualification evaluation (TQE). The RQE is a milestone for the PhD degree in EECS. [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. **RQE Plan**: discuss potential topics and research activities appropriate for RQE with your research supervisor. The RQE requires a written paper describing the work and an oral presentation discussing the work along with answering questions posed by the RQE faculty committee. The RQE plan should be agreed upon by Add Date of the Spring 2026 semester [March 6, 2026].

2. **Apply for RQE**: On March 6, 2026, apply for the RQE using the PhD status portal for EECS graduate students. A title and abstract are required for submission. You may submit names of potential EECS faculty who may be appropriate RQE committee members; however, the committee is assigned by the relevant EECS Area (EE, CS, AI&D) Chairs.

3. **RQE Committee Assignment:** Upon notification of the assigned RQE committee members, determine a day/time available for all parties. If possible, schedule the exam prior to the last day of class for the semester [May 12, 2026]. Inform Alicia

Duarte (aaduarte@mit.edu) about the exam date and time; help with scheduling a conference room is available.

4. To complete the subject and to be assigned a grade of P (pass), a final report must be received by the EECS graduate office from the chair of the RQE committee. [Alicia Duarte will assist with obtaining the final report from the faculty committee.] With successful completion of the RQE exam, a grade of P will be assigned.

5. If the EECS graduate office does not receive a satisfactory (or passing) report from the RQE committee chair by the last day of the finals period [May 20, 2026], a grade of J- will be assigned. Enrollment in 6.9993 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 6.9993 Page: [Road to the PhD – MIT EECS](#)
- EECS Grad - RQE Guide: [Microsoft Word - RQEMEMO2023.doc](#)
- MIT Comm Lab - RQE Preparation: [Research Qualifying Examination (RQE) : EECS Communication Lab](#)