ECE PhD Qualifying Process (effective July 1, 2011)

- GPA in Core ≥3.25
- GPA in 4 Core ≥3.5

- Written Exam
  - GPA in Core ≥3.25
  - borderline
    - yes: Oral Exam
      - pass: QUALIFIED
      - fail: Written Exam
    - no: Written Exam
  - fail: Oral Exam

- Oral Exam
  - pass: QUALIFIED
  - fail: 2nd attempt?

- 2nd attempt?
  - yes: DO NOT QUALIFY
  - no: Written Exam

- Core courses taken during first two semesters
- Only 1 attempt for each core course
- Choose two core courses for oral exam
- Entire process must be done in 2 years
Phase I: Written Exam

• Written exam on undergraduate material to be taken during first year
• Two attempts allowed, three opportunities to take
• PhD Qualifying Committee will recommend raw score thresholds for pass, borderline pass, and fail (e.g. pass ≥ 65; borderline pass 55 to 64.9; fail = 0 to 54.9)

Phase IIa: Oral Exam

• Oral exam on two graduate core courses
• Eligibility for oral exam
  • Students who earn clear pass on written exam;
  OR
  • Students who earn borderline on written exam and whose GPA is ≥ 3.25 in core courses taken during first two semesters (one attempt only) are eligible for oral exam phase

Phase IIb: Course-based criteria (Fast-track)

• Any four core courses taken in first two semesters, one attempt only
• Students who earn clear pass on written exam eligible for course-based phase
• One attempt per course over first two semesters*
• Students may declare any four core courses to meet GPA ≥ 3.5
• Students who fulfill course-based criteria are not required to take the oral exam; qualifying requirement is satisfied.

*Part-time students may be given up to four semesters to fulfill course-based phase; such exceptions will be considered and granted on a case-by-case basis.