EECS Town Hall

Fall 2012

Answers to Pre-Asked Questions

ACADEMICS

Why does it take so long to get the prelim exam results?

For the EE side, the Prelim Exam Committee has decided that results should not be released until the members have met. In some cases, a particular student situation needs to be discussed before an official decision is made. If results were released intermittently, this would call attention to any students that may have a situation that still needs to be discussed.

For the CS side, results are sent directly from the faculty examiners and are dependent on their schedules.

What is the policy on transferring credit from other universities?

For PhD students, a maximum of 12 units of transfer credit (for those on the 24 unit plan), and 16 units (for those on the 32 unit plan) are allowed. Units used towards a Bachelor’s degree will not be counted, and in general, only one transfer course can be used towards the major requirements. Students should submit to their Graduate Assistant a Transfer Credit Petition, (http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/GradAffairs/CS/petition.transfer.credit.pdf).

For Masters students, a maximum of four transfer units, or six quarter units, will be allowed to transfer if the following criteria are met:

- The course was taken while the student was in graduate standing.
- The course was not applied towards satisfying a previously conferred degree.
- The credit was earned for coursework normally offered within the students’ current degree program
- The coursework will not reduce the minimum requirement for 200-level coursework

Petitions are considered on an individual basis and should be completed before applying for candidacy. They will be granted only for students with high achievement (i.e., a GPA of at least 3.3 at both Berkeley and the original institution). If you were a UC Berkeley undergraduate and you took a graduate course for a grade during your final semester which did not count toward your undergraduate degree, you may be able to transfer this course towards your M.S. program. Consult your Graduate Assistant for details about this “backdating graduate standing” process and for the proper petition form.

DIVERSITY

What current outreach do we do for minority groups?

The Department is committed to a diverse student body and engages in a variety of recruitment and outreach efforts, including departmentally based outreach, collaboration with the College of Engineering, the Division of Physical Sciences and the Graduate Division. Outreach efforts coordinated through the
College of Engineering deploy staff to travel to conferences, such as SACNAS, AISES, SHP, BESSA. At the Departmental level, EECS faculty and students collaborate on a range of programs, from undergraduate and graduate outreach to academic support and pre-professional advancement.

The graduate pipeline program for diverse graduate students in EECS is our Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research at Berkeley (SUPERB). The goal of the program is to prepare and motivate a group of diverse, competitive candidates for graduate study in computer science in the context of information technology for sustainability. Programs such as the SRC Undergraduate Research Program, which serve approximately 20 undergraduate women and minority students per year, also enable the department to reach out to enrolled diverse students during the academic year.

The EECS Department also annually hosts 5-7 “Berkeley Edge” minority students for an invitational pre-admissions weekend, coordinated by Physical Sciences, with heavy participation by the EECS graduate students. In addition, EECS faculty host a substantial number of underrepresented minority students from other colleges and universities in various summer research programs, such as the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), TRUST, COINS, and E3S.

EECS faculty are also fully engaged in intense recruitment of all admitted graduate students. Students receive phone calls and email messages from faculty and current students. Minority students are contacted by Black Graduate Engineering and Science Students (BGESS) and Latino Association of Graduate Engineering and Science Students (LAGSES). All students are paid to visit campus, during which they meet individually with faculty and students. EECS women faculty members join current graduate students to hold a special event for the women visitors. Two faculty members from EECS are also part of the College of Engineering’s Broadening Participation Committee, the goal of which is to understand the best practices in recruiting minorities and women to the undergraduate and graduate student programs, and to improve the environment for these students.

Every effort is made by the Department to put together a competitive financial aid offer, including faculty drafting nominations for the Graduate Division Fellowships competition. At the campus level, the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion (VCEI) and the Graduate Division host a campus-wide Graduate Student Diversity Day for all new admittees as well as a reception honoring graduate diversity.

The Department’s commitment to diversity is further evident in its direct financial support to graduate diversity student groups, including Women in Computer Science and Engineering (WICSE), Black Graduate Engineering and Science Students (BGESS), Latino Association of Graduate Students in Engineering and Science (LAGSES) and Queer Graduate Students in Computer Science and Engineering (QICSE). The Department values our very ongoing supportive relationships with these groups and has invited student leaders from these groups to present at our annual Faculty Retreat in April. EECS Diversity Programs has also provided funding for leaders from these groups to attend conferences, and we annually co-host the BGESS Pre College Science Fair.

The Department has also dedicated a staff position to supporting EECS diversity programs. This position is currently held by Dr. Sheila Humphreys, EECS Director of Diversity, who can be reached at humphrys@eecs.berkeley.edu or via telephone at 643-1974 for all diversity related matters.

More information on EECS Diversity and Outreach Programs can also be found at:
http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/Diversity/
http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/department/OutreachPrograms.shtml
What were the acceptance rates of women and under-represented minorities from the Fall 2012 class?

The admissions rates for U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident Women were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admissions</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Accepts</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Defers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The admissions rates for international women were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admissions</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Accepts</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Defers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The admissions rates for under-represented minorities by ethnicity were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admissions</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Accepts</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Defers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish-Am./Latino</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican-American</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Hispanic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACILITIES**

What are the policies for getting access to conference rooms?

Most conference rooms function on an as needed or scheduled basis and unlocking the doors or checking out temporary keys is generally administered by the receptionist or a student services representative. Jo Bullock in 205 Cory, and Meg Pressley in 387 Soda, are the point people for each respective building. Since many of the conference rooms are used frequently by many different people, this has been the best way to ensure the rooms will be clean and available when they are needed. Checking out a long term key makes it harder to regulate who is in each room and figuring out who might be responsible for cleaning it or leaving it in a messy state.
What is the policy on when card key access is activated and terminated?

When card key access is requested, an expiration date is required. The expiration date is determined when access is entered into the system. In some cases, depending on the type of access, the expiration dates may vary. This means that some access will be taken off, while other access remains. In general, students are only granted access to the rooms they are currently using, such as classrooms or offices.

Who is responsible for maintaining the printers on the 7th Floor of Sutardja Dai Hall?

The printer was purchased by Professor Bartlett’s group. The CUSG (Computer User Support Group, http://cusg.eecs.berkeley.edu) handles the technical management of the printer, but there is no specific admin person or group currently identified to replace toner cartridges or paper.

What is the cleaning and restocking schedule for the bathrooms?

The bathrooms are cleaned and restocked at least once every day, usually in the morning. However, there is no service on the weekends.

Where can we find an updated floor plan for Cory and Soda?

Floor plans are not currently available on the web partially due to security reasons. In the future, the department may consider making them available.

How can we get more recycling containers and trash cans in major spaces of the buildings, particularly on the weekends?

Unfortunately, there is currently no custodial services on the weekends to bring out more trash cans and recycling containers. However, the department will look into permanently getting additional containers and trash cans for the more trafficked areas of the buildings.

Where can I find a list of public printers?

Most printers in Cory and Soda Halls are NOT publically available (i.e. should not be used by students). For a list of available printers, you can visit this site, http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/Resguide/stud.shtml#printers.

FUNDING

What is the policy on guaranteed funding?

The Department endeavors to arrange financial support for doctoral students in good standing. Many research students receive support at least sufficient to cover fees and normal living expenses during the academic year. The terms of the support for a student are determined at the time of admission. Rarely do we admit a student without support, but in cases where we do, it cannot be assumed that you will receive financial support from the department in the future simply by virtue of having been in the graduate program for any length of time. Students must exercise initiative on their own behalf by applying for financial aid or employment in a timely fashion.
What is the current practice regarding the GSI supplement?

The goal of the EECS Department is to equalize the amount of funding doctoral students receive over the course of their doctoral study. Because the GSI salary is slightly lower than the GSR salary and departmental fellowship stipend, the department will supplement GSIs. The department is currently revising the policy to take into account fee remission balances.

MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMS

What is the purpose of the new professional Masters programs (i.e., MEng and MASIC)?

A mixture of industry and student demand, along with University of California initiatives, have prompted EECS to start new professional Masters programs. In 1994, the University of California discussed ways in which it could increase opportunities for professionals who were not being served by its research programs (http://www.ucop.edu/planning/documents/96_ssp_pol_implmntn.pdf). This resulted in policies allowing departments to expand their degree program offerings. In addition, the MEng and MASIC programs are mostly self-supporting and bring improved professional skills to California’s workforce, especially in engineering.

What are the metrics being collected on the professional Masters degree program students?

Both the MEng and MASIC programs have department committees and advisory boards including faculty members and industry representatives who are driving policies and research on program effectiveness and best practices. In addition, EECS hired a full-time advisor to coordinate the administrative aspects of these new programs and provide some of the research requested from these stakeholders. This new advisor has a background in education policy and research, and has worked to develop and implement new educational programs for a variety of student populations.

If you would like to discuss the Masters programs further, please contact Jenn Gardner at JennG@eecs.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

What are the proper safety procedures during a bomb threat?

The most important thing to remember in the case of a bomb threat is to maintain your safety. EECS policy is that anyone who may feel in danger should evacuate the premises. If you see a suspicious-looking box, package, object, or container in or near your work area, do not handle or touch the object. Move to a safe area and call the Police immediately. Use a telephone in a safe area. Do not operate any power switches, and do not activate the fire alarm.

Detailed information of the Safety and Building Emergency Procedures can be found here,

Cory, http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/department/emergency/coryemergency.shtml

Where can I find mailing lists that have information occurring about crime in the area?

The UCPD has a mailing list where members can expect to receive crime alerts for the Berkeley campus and immediate area, when appropriate. There will also be periodic informational messages about topics in crime prevention such as theft prevention and night safety. Details on how you can subscribe to the mailing list can be found here, http://police.berkeley.edu/newselist.html.

A list of crime alerts, including an archived list, can be found here, http://police.berkeley.edu/crimealerts.

MISCELLANEOUS

Is there a possibility of a centralized version control service, as opposed to the ad hoc approach where each group rolls their own solution?

The EECS Repo service (http://repo.eecs.berkeley.edu/) allows members of the EECS community and their external collaborators to use a shared version control system for writing papers and developing software in a secure manner. By using EECS storage, we avoid duplication of effort and provide a documented disaster recovery process.

The EECS Repo service currently supports the SVN and Git version control systems with preliminary support for external (non-EECS/UCB) collaborators. Setup instructions and an FAQ are available in a Wiki linked on the site. The service is open for early adopters who are willing to provide constructive feedback to the project. If you are interested in contributing to the project, or would like to provide feedback and/or ask questions, send an email to repo-support@eecs.berkeley.edu.

What is the “document processing fee” and can the department pay for it?

Document Management Fee

The Berkeley Document Management fee is a one-time fee that was introduced in fall 2011 and is applied to all entering UC Berkeley students. Among other things, it covers the costs for unlimited transcripts, official verifications of attendance, and the cost of one diploma (including shipping fees). The current amount of the document management fee is $100 for PhD and $80 for Master's degree students.

This year the department covered the fee for entering doctoral students on departmental fellowships. However, since the fee is not covered by the fee remission automatically generated for students supported by 45% GSR appointments, GSRs were left with a fee balance to cover themselves. In the future, the department will consider whether to fund this fee for all EECS students.

If you have suggestions for future Town Hall discussions, or would like to view an archive of the handouts from previous years, please visit, http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/GradAffairs/TownHall.

We would love your input!