NUCLEAR, PLASMA & RADIATIONAL ENGINEERING, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering

Opportunity exists for specializing in computational science and engineering via the Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/) optional graduate concentration.

The Department of Nuclear, Plasma and Radiological Engineering offers both a traditional doctoral program and a direct doctoral program. The traditional doctoral program requires candidates enter with an approved master’s degree. The direct doctoral program allows highly qualified applicants with a baccalaureate degree to be admitted directly into the PhD program without an MS degree. The direct PhD program has the same coursework requirements as the MS plus PhD route, however students in the direct PhD do not write an MS thesis and do not receive an MS degree.

Department Research
Research activities in the Department of NPREE encompass a diverse range of investigation and challenge areas as described on the department’s research area website (https://npre.illinois.edu/research/areas/), these include but are not limited to: nuclear science and engineering, radiation processes and transport, materials science, thermal sciences, systems engineering, energy conversion processes and systems, plasma sciences and processing, fusion energy, radiation-based medical imaging and therapy, dosimetry and radiation protection, radiation detection analysis, reliability and risk analysis, energy systems, and international security. Graduate students in the Department are active participants and contributors to these areas of education and research and typically pursue careers in one of these areas. Graduate students in the Department are also encouraged to take part in course work and research activities in other engineering and science departments to complement their professional development in the nuclear engineering field. Faculty in other related fields are available to supervise research for students through formal "affiliate faculty" appointments. For a detailed list of current research interests of the faculty, visit the department’s Research website (https://npre.illinois.edu/research/).

A wide range of major research resources are available for nuclear engineering research. These are described at the department’s Research Facilities website (https://npre.illinois.edu/research/facilities/).

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The doctoral candidate must complete course work, pass a qualifying examination, a preliminary doctoral examination, write a doctoral thesis, and successfully defend the thesis at a final examination before a doctoral faculty committee. A doctoral student typically takes several courses in NPREE plus additional courses that support a specialized research area and provide background in mathematics and science. Under exceptional circumstances and by approved petition, doctoral research may be undertaken off campus.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 12/2023
NPRE 596  Seminar in Nuclear Sci & Engrg  (registration for 1 hour every semester while in residence; credit does not apply toward the degree.)

Elective Courses (subject to Other Requirements and Conditions below)  
16 hours of 500-level courses (not including NPRE 501 and NPRE 521)
12-16 hours of NPRE graduate level courses, not counting 402, 446, 501, 521, 596, or 599

Total Hours  96

Other Requirements and Conditions

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Requirements and Conditions</td>
<td>may overlap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consult department for details of</td>
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<td>minimum hours required within the</td>
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<td>unit.</td>
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<td>Credit in NPRE 402 or NPRE 446</td>
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<td>does not count toward the degree.</td>
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<td>Students not completing an MS</td>
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<td>thesis may only count 40 credit</td>
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<td>hours of NPRE 599.</td>
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<td>Ph.D. exam and dissertation</td>
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<td>requirements:</td>
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<td>Qualifying exam:</td>
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<td>Preliminary exam</td>
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<td>Final exam or dissertation defense</td>
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<td>Dissertation deposit</td>
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<td>Minimum GPA: 3.0</td>
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1. Ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science and engineering
2. Ability to design and conduct experiments; and/or computational projects; analyze and interpret data
3. Ability to communicate effectively
4. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research in a nuclear, plasma or radiological field
5. Demonstrate scholarly research by understanding the state-of-the-art and extending new knowledge from and into open-ended questions and presenting work under peer-reviewed constructs

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Application Requirements

Application for admissions to the master's and doctoral degree programs is open to all graduates in engineering, mathematics, and the physical sciences with a grade point average of at least 3.00 (A = 4.00) for the last two years of undergraduate work and any graduate work completed. Prerequisites for admission include a course in ordinary differential equations plus one other mathematics course beyond calculus; an intermediate course in atomic and nuclear physics or interaction of radiation with matter; a course in electrical circuit theory; a course in thermodynamics; a course in fluid mechanics or continuum mechanics; and a course introducing nuclear engineering. A student may be admitted before completion of these prerequisites, but he or she must allow additional time to make up for these deficiencies; courses taken to make up such deficiencies will not count toward the number of units required for the graduate degree. Transcripts and letters of recommendation are required. Information such as undergraduate class rank is recommended.

For full consideration of fall admission with financial aid, application receipt deadline is December 15th. The final deadline is February 15th. Students who wish to enter in the spring term should contact the Department before applying. For full consideration of spring admission with financial aid, application receipt deadline is October 15th.

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit TOEFL (http://www.toefl.org/) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (http://www.ielts.org/) scores as evidence of English proficiency. Minimum admission requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/) are set by the Graduate College.

Financial Aid

Most graduate students receive some form of financial aid. Fellowships (https://grad.illinois.edu/fellowships/about/) are available to support the best applicants. Other students are supported on teaching or research assistantships (https://grad.illinois.edu/assistantships/). Starting in Fall 2020, Grainger Engineering PhD students in their first five years of enrollment who meet the minimum eligibility requirements (https://grainger.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/phd-funding-guarantee/) are guaranteed a funded appointment for fall and spring that includes a full tuition waiver, a partial fee waiver, and a stipend. Financial aid includes federally sponsored traineeships and fellowships and University and industry fellowships. The University is approved for several fellowships including those from the Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Science Foundation, Hertz Foundation and others.

All applicants, regardless of US citizenship, whose native language is not English and who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships must demonstrate spoken English language proficiency (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm) by achieving a minimum score of 24 on the speaking subsection of the TOEFL IBT or 8 on the speaking subsection of the IELTS. For students who are unable to take the IBT or IELTS, a minimum score of 4CP is required on the EPI test (http://ce.illinois.edu/testing/oral_eng/epi_overview.html), offered on campus. All new teaching assistants are required to participate in the Graduate Academy for College Teaching (https://cte.illinois.edu/citl-101/teaching-learning/grad-academy-for-college-teaching/) conducted prior to the start of the semester.

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Department of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering
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Associate Head for Graduate Programs: R. Mohan Sankaran
Contact: Kristie Stramaski (kstram20@illinois.edu)
Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering website (http://npre.illinois.edu/)
Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering faculty (https://npre.illinois.edu/people/faculty/)
Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering program website (https://npre.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/)
100H2 Talbot Laboratory, 104 S Wright St, Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 300-5517
Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering email (nuclear@illinois.edu)

Grainger College of Engineering
Grainger College of Engineering website (https://grainger.illinois.edu/)

Admissions
Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering Admissions & Requirements (https://npre.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate/)
Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)

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