NUCLEAR, PLASMA & RADIATIONAL ENGINEERING, PHD

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

**department head:** Rizwan Uddin (rizwan@illinois.edu)

**overview of admissions & requirements:** [https://npre.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate](https://npre.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate)

**overview of grad college admissions & requirements:** [https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply](https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply)

**department website:** [http://npre.illinois.edu](http://npre.illinois.edu)

**program website:** [https://npre.illinois.edu/academics/graduate](https://npre.illinois.edu/academics/graduate)

**department faculty:** [https://npre.illinois.edu/people/faculty](https://npre.illinois.edu/people/faculty)

**college website:** [https://grainger.illinois.edu](https://grainger.illinois.edu)

**contact:** Becky Meline (bmeline@illinois.edu)

**address:** 216 Talbot Laboratory, 104 S Wright St, Urbana, IL 61801

**phone:** (217) 333-3598

**email:** nuclear@illinois.edu

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

**Admission 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. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) ([http://www.ets.org/](http://www.ets.org/)) is required. Information such as undergraduate class rank is recommended.

For full consideration of fall admission with financial aid, application receipt deadline is January 1st. Students who wish to enter in the spring term should contact the Department before applying.

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit TOEFL ([http://www.toefl.org/](http://www.toefl.org/)) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) ([http://www.ielts.org/](http://www.ielts.org/)) scores as evidence of English proficiency. Minimum admission requirements ([https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/](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 are available to support the best applicants. Other students are supported as graduate research, teaching, or general assistants. 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/](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, and Hertz.

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](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://pte.illinois.edu/testing/epi_overview.html](http://pte.illinois.edu/testing/epi_overview.html)), offered on campus. All new teaching assistants are required to participate in the Graduate Academy for College Teaching ([https://cti.illinois.edu/cti-101/teaching-learning/grad-academy-for-college-teaching/](https://cti.illinois.edu/cti-101/teaching-learning/grad-academy-for-college-teaching/)) conducted prior to the start of the semester.

**Department Research**

The Faculty of the Department are internationally recognized experts in the areas of: 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 web site ([https://npre.illinois.edu/research/](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/](https://npre.illinois.edu/research/facilities/)).

**Other Graduate Programs in the Department of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering**

degrees:
Nuclear, Plasma, & Radiological Engineering, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/nuclear-plasma-radiological-engineering-ms/)

optional concentrations:
Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)
Entering with an approved Master's Degree:

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s printed handbook and the Graduate College Handbook (http://grad.illinois.edu/graduate-program/qualifying-examination/qualifying-examination/). Learn more on the Q (http://npre.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-program/qualifying-examination/qualifying-examination/).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPRE 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (min-max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPRE 501</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nuclear Engrg</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; NPRE 521</td>
<td>and Interact of Radiation w/Matter (if not taken while completing the M.S. degree)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NPRE 596</td>
<td>Seminar in Nuclear Sci &amp; Engrg (registration for 1 hour every semester while in residence; credit does not apply toward the degree.)</td>
<td>0</td>
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Elective Courses (subject to Other Requirements and Conditions below)

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<tr>
<td>NPRE 402, 446, 501, 521, 596, or 599</td>
<td>8 hours of 500-level courses (not including NPRE 501 and NPRE 521)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPRE 402, 446, 501, 521, 596, or 599</td>
<td>4-8 hours of NPRE graduate level courses, not counting</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 64

Other Requirements and Conditions

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 NPRE 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.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s printed handbook and the Graduate College Handbook (http://grad.illinois.edu/graduate-program/qualifying-examination/qualifying-examination/). Learn more on the Q (http://npre.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-program/qualifying-examination/qualifying-examination/).

Entering with an approved Master's Degree:

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Elective Courses (subject to Other Requirements and Conditions below)

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<td>8 hours of 500-level courses (not including NPRE 501 and NPRE 521)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4-8 hours of NPRE graduate level courses, not counting</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 96

Other Requirements and Conditions

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 NPRE 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.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s printed handbook and the Graduate College Handbook (http://grad.illinois.edu/graduate-program/qualifying-examination/qualifying-examination/). Learn more on the Q (http://npre.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-program/qualifying-examination/qualifying-examination/).
Consult department for details of minimum hours required within the unit.

Credit in NPRE 402 or NPRE 446 does not count toward the degree.

Students not completing an MS thesis may only count 40 credit hours of NPRE 599.

Ph.D. exam and dissertation requirements:
- Qualifying exam
- Preliminary exam
- Final exam or dissertation defense
- Dissertation deposit
- Minimum GPA: 3.0