

# DUAL PHD REQUEST FORM

## ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING

The purpose of this form is (1) to help you plan your dual PhD in your primary and secondary departments and (2) to ensure that both departments are aware of your intent to do so, and to make you aware of opportunities that may be available to you because of this. This form should be completed in consultation with your guidance committee during your first thesis committee meeting and returned either in person or via email to the Graduate Director (Associate Chair for Graduate Studies).

**IMPORTANT:** As described in the university guidelines on [Dual Major Doctoral Degrees](#), "All dual major doctoral degrees must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. A request for the dual major degree must be submitted via GradPlan within one semester following its development and within the first two years of the student's enrollment at Michigan State University." **Most critically**, the intent to receive the degree in two areas must be outlined in the guidance committee report, and the PhD Degree Plan must reflect the required standards of both departments. Approval via GradPlan must come from the Graduate Directors of both departments, the College of the student's primary graduate program and the College of Engineering, and the Dean of the Graduate School. If you have any questions about this, please contact the ECE Associate Chair for Graduate Studies.

In addition to the course requirements discussed in this document, please note that **students pursuing a dual PhD must have a dissertation project that significantly incorporates the practices and knowledge of both disciplines**. As such, the request for a dual PhD with ECE must be justified during your first committee meeting, and will be evaluated annually by your dissertation committee. Students whose work is deemed to be lacking sufficient aspects of their secondary field will not be allowed to receive the dual PhD.

**Once this form is completed and signed, you must initiate the Dual Major Request in your GradPlan.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Net ID: \_\_\_\_\_@msu.edu

Current Program (major code and program name): \_\_\_\_\_

Dissertation advisor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Net ID: \_\_\_\_\_@msu.edu

Degree Pursued (e.g., "Dual PhD in ECE and ESPP"): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Department: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thesis committee names, MSU email, departmental affiliation (note that there must be at least one faculty member whose tenure home is in each department involved in this dual PhD):

1. Committee Chair Name	Committee Chair Signature	Department(s)	NetID
2. Committee Member Name	Committee Member Signature	Department	NetID
3. Committee Member Name	Committee Member Signature	Department	NetID
4. Committee Member Name	Committee Member Signature	Department	NetID
5. Committee Member Name	Committee Member Signature	Department	NetID
6. Committee Member Name	Committee Member Signature	Department	NetID

Describe how you will meet each department's comprehensive exam requirement below:

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Students who pursue a dual PhD are working at the boundary of two disciplines, and to receive a dual PhD your research must significantly incorporate the practices and knowledge of both disciplines. Explain how your dissertation research significantly incorporates aspects of both disciplines below:

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Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2<sup>nd</sup> advisor optional)

**Graduate Director of non-ECE department:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) Signature Date

**Graduate Secretary of non-ECE department:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) Email Phone

Upon completion of this form, please return to the ECE Graduate Secretary and Graduate Director via email or hard copy to 2325 Engineering Building, for final review and the ECE Graduate Director's signature.

**ECE Graduate Director Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) Signature Date