# CECS Fall 2026 Go for Launch Series: Spring 2027 Candidacy Students

Presented by Heather Houser, CECS Graduate Program Manager

## Deadlines

- Spring 2027
  - Program of Study: October 30, 2026
  - Dissertation Committee Formation: November 6, 2026
  - Candidacy Notification: November 20, 2026

  - Spring Registration: Your Appointment Time – 1/8, at 4:00 p.m.
    - 1/11 begins late registration; if registering for the 1st time beginning 1/11, a $100 late charge will be incurred
    - Note: students can add/drop/swap classes until 1/15

# Overview

1. Learning About Candidacy
2. Finding an Advisor
3. Completing Requirements
4. Forming Your Committee
5. Registering for Dissertation Hours
6. Dissertation Resources
7. Questions?

## What is a Candidate?

- A student who has completed all coursework and examinations required for a doctoral degree, except for their dissertation.
- All But Dissertation (ABD)
- All Paperwork Due Nov 5 / Nov 6
- 3 Hours of 7980 = Full-Time Status, Until 15 Hours Completed, Can Skip Terms
- Thesis/Dissertation Excellence
  - Top CECS Thesis/Dissertations by Download
  - Best CECS Thesis/Dissertations

# College of Engineering & Computer Science

**Find a Topic* and/or an Advisor***

**Finalize POS***

**Form Committee***

**Register for 7980***

**Research**

**Write**

**Defend**

**Graduate**

# Selecting a Dissertation Advisor

## What do you want to learn more about? Have you found a gap in that topic's academic literature?

- CECS Departmental Websites
- Google Scholar
- Past/Current Professor
- Peers*
- Research Methodology Style
- Project Management Style

The "best" advisor is the one whose research expertise, mentoring style, availability, and support align with your goals and working preferences. Take time to talk to current and former students, ask specific questions, and trust your gut — this choice will influence your entire graduate experience.[1]

1 https://campusbreeze.com/graduate/how-to-choose-a-thesis-advisor/

## Completing Your Candidacy Requirements

- Standard PhD
  - At least 51 COMPLETED hours of graduate course work (including transfer work)
  - Recommend **57 hours**
- Post-MS
  - At least 21 COMPLETED hours of graduate course work (including transfer work)
  - Recommend **27 hours**
  - How to Access Your GPS
- 2 Ethics Workshops
- Qualifying exam(s)/Reviews are Complete
- Summer Enrollment

## Departmental Requirements

- Civil, Environmental & Construction Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical & Computer Engineering same for both
- Industrial Engineering & Management Systems
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Mechanical, Aerospace, & Biomedical Engineering
- Modeling and Simulation

**Most paperwork deadlines are by the End of October 2026**

# Forming Your Committee

- Ask your Dissertation Chair for Suggestions
- Ask your Past/Current Faculty Members to Serve
- Approved Committees
  - Four Members at Minimum
  - Graduate Faculty Status
  - The majority (3 of 4 or 3 of 5) must be from your Discipline
- Committee Formation Dynamic Form
  - Multi-Stage Approval Process (all must sign)
  - Due no later than 11/6 if everyone is approved
  - Not on Faculty List? Grad Coordinator to Nominate ASAP

# Submitting Candidacy Notification

- After your exam, submit the new form, but before 11/20
  - Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering
  - Computer Science
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Industrial Engineering
  - Materials Science
  - Mechanical, Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering
  - Modeling & Simulation

# Registering for Dissertation Credits

- After BOTH your Candidacy Notification and Committee Formation are completed by CECS Grad Affairs, then submit your Registration Dynamic Form
- Multiple-Level Approval

  You → Your Advisor → CECS Grad Affairs

  - Will get an Email Either Processed or Returned (Holds)
- A Dissertation Degree Requires 15 Successful Credits
  - 3 Hours is Full-Time (Tuition Waivers Default to 3 Hrs. of Coverage; exceptions must be advisor-supported or CGS for GTAs – only graduating students)
  - Must be a Two-Term Experience

## Dissertation Resources

- Graduate Studies Webcourse
- editor@ucf.edu
- UCF Library (Buenaventura.Basco@ucf.edu “Ven”)
- CECS Graduate Defense Dynamic Form
  - **Due Two-Weeks Prior**
  - Can Submit Early
  - Defense Information & Research Productivity Data
- Formatting Help?
  - ETDhelp@ucf.edu
- AI in Academic Research

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## Fall 2026 Go for Launch Workshops

- Spring 2027 Registration: **December 18, 2026 * may change to early January '27**

**All sessions are held via Zoom at 11 AM / Slides will be Posted After the Presentation Session**

The Go for Launch Workshop Series empowers graduate students to succeed academically, professionally, and personally by providing essential guidance, resources, and connections throughout their graduate education journey.

# Chat Questions?

CECSgrad@ucf.edu

https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjh4Ly7MqQ3NaHY