TPP Degree Completion, Etc.

September 2008

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Topics
- Program Forms
- Thesis
  - Timetables
- Dual Degrees
- PhD Applications
- Course Announcement

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Program Forms
- We "really" should have one on file and approved by now
- Revisions need to be cleared
- Thesis supervision and topic
- Timetables for completion and "progress"

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Thesis Deadlines
- Thesis approval; as early as possible
  - Email to jpclark@mit.edu, furd@mit.edu, sydney@mit.edu
  - Notification by email -- ensure that Sydney gets a copy
- Application for advanced degree due Sept 5 (this Friday!)
- Thesis "Proposal"
  - Due by Add Date of term PRECEDING graduation
- Theses due dates
  - 16 Feb 2009
  - 8 May 2009
  - Hard deadlines
    - Extensions ONLY with credible demonstration of completion
    - E.g., nearly completed drafts, complete with references, TOC, etc.

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Thesis Guidelines
- de Neufville thesis manual
  - [http://web.mit.edu/tpp/resources.html](http://web.mit.edu/tpp/resources.html)
- General MIT Guidelines

Thesis “Proposal”
- Based on Section 9 in de Neufville’s document (p. 51)
  - Thesis Formulation:
    - Write a two page description and justification of the formulation of your thesis in five parts:
      - Its central question or issue,
      - The one or two key methods you will use to test or elaborate this hypothesis,
      - The evidence or data available to support your answer,
      - The feasibility of your approach within the time and capacities at your disposal, and
      - The logic by which you will establish the point of your thesis.
- Needs a cover page signed by your thesis supervisor and reader, if appropriate

Thesis Timetables
- February Graduates
  - You better have gotten started!
- June Graduates
  - You too!
- Planning, planning, planning
  - Remember that your supervisor is NOT obliged to drop everything to meet your schedule!
  - Edit/revisions are the NORM, not the exception
- Special Note:
  - [Clear your title page with Sydney AS SOON AS FEASIBLE!](http://web.mit.edu/tpp/resources.html)
- Best Thesis award

Dual Degrees
- Admission to the “other” department program
- Petition for completion
  - 66 graduate units per degree, 42H-Level per degree
  - Sharing of courses across degrees?
  - Sharing of thesis across degrees?
- Research supervisor in the loop?
- Timing implications
Applications to ESD PhD

- See http://esd.mit.edu/academic/admissions.html
- Due January 10th
- Elizabeth Milnes (emilnes@mit.edu, E40-249)
- “Should provide”
  - Their MIT transcript – with a Grade Point Average in graduate school of 4.7 or above
  - A letter of strong support from an ESD faculty member who is prepared to mentor, if not support, the candidate throughout their doctoral career at MIT
  - An outline of their proposed research and the supporting curriculum – this is suggestive, but not binding
  - A list of the possible members of the doctoral committee. Normally, the student will have obtained the approval of these faculty members for the proposed doctoral research
  - A resume/curriculum vitae

TPP Course Announcements

- ESD.811
  - First session will be next week;
  - Organizational session only this week for mechanics