TPP Degree Completion, Etc.

September 2009

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”

P/D/F Option for Graduate Students

- Revision to 2.26.1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty (http://web.mit.edu/faculty/governance/rules/2.60.html)

“The grade of P is authorized for use under the following circumstances:

“[…] v. for students registered in a graduate degree program in a total of no more than one elected subject per term. These subjects cannot be used to fulfill degree requirements, and must be elected by the students and the Registrar notified before the end of the fifth week of the term. Pursuant to the educational goals of their respective programs, individual departments or instructors may restrict how the P/D/F option is exercised by students in their programs or classes.”
**P/D/F Option for Graduate Students**

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**TPP and P/D/F**

» TPP will NOT allow P/D/F option classes* to be applied toward the degree

“ […] Pursuant to the educational goals of their respective programs, individual departments or instructors may restrict how the P/D/F option is exercised by students in their programs or classes.”

* i.e., classes that normally employ regular grading but are converted to P/D/F grading under Faculty Rule 2.26.1 (v). Classes that are listed as P/D/F in the catalog and are described as part of the TPP core will continue to be applied toward the degree.

**Thesis Deadlines**

» Thesis topic approval: as early as possible
- Submission and “grades” managed centrally

» Application for advanced degree due Sept 11 (THIS Friday!)
- For June degree list, 5 Feb 2010

» Thesis “Proposal”
- Due by Add Date of term PRECEDING graduation
- You may be getting comments from me (hang in there!)

» Theses due dates
  - 15 Jan 2010
  - 7 May 2010
- Hard deadlines
  - Extensions ONLY with credible demonstration of completion (e.g., nearly completed drafts, complete with references, TOC, etc.)

**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 GUIDELINES
» de Neufville thesis manual
» General MIT Guidelines
  - http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/

THESIS TIMETABLES
» Feb 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 and abstract with Sydney AS SOON AS FEASIBLE!
» Best Thesis award

TPP THESIS PROPOSALS SITE
http://stellar.mit.edu/S/project/tpp-thesis/

DUAL DEGREES
» Admission to the “other” department program
  - Must be admitted no later than the end of the penultimate semester
  - Note: Other departments may have other/earlier deadlines
» Petition for completion
  - 66 graduate units [G] per degree, 42 H-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/academics/phd_admissions.html](http://esd.mit.edu/academics/phd_admissions.html)

» Due January 11th (2009 Jan 10 is a Sunday, so following Monday)

» Elizabeth Milnes (emilnes@mit.edu; E40-249)

» "How do I apply if I am already a student at MIT?"
  - "[...] MIT master's students seeking a doctoral degree should apply using the procedure outlined above. [i.e. no formal distinction between internal and external applications]
  - "Current students only are eligible for an application fee waiver, which they can request from ESD's Academic Office [...]"
  - "Additionally, current graduate students do not have to submit GRE scores, but [...] standardized test scores submitted to MIT in the past will automatically be uploaded into our system, and be available to the Admissions Committee.
  - "[...] The Admissions Committee expects successful applicants to the doctoral program will have an MIT GPA of 4.7 or higher."

"What materials should I submit with my application?"

» "The Graduate Application including:
  - "A Statement of Objectives that indicates the area of interest in engineering systems and general career objectives.
  - "Transcripts from all the universities, colleges, institutes of higher-learning, etc., you have attended
  - "Three evaluations or letters of recommendation [...] Your evaluators should be able to testify in useful detail about your professional and research capabilities. One of these evaluations must be from a professor, two evaluations must be academic, and the final reference may come from employers or other professional or research contacts.
  - "GRE general examination scores.
  - "IELTS score, for non-native speakers of English.
  - "A curriculum vitae or resume"