Electrical & Systems Engineering

The Department of Electrical & Systems Engineering offers PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering and in Systems Science & Mathematics. Research activity in the department is focused in the following three areas:

• Applied mathematics, systems & control
• Electronics & optics
• Signal processing, imaging & communications

Students working in any of these areas will enjoy the benefits of programs that balance fundamental theoretical concepts with modern applications. In our department, students find ample opportunities for close interactions with faculty members working on cutting-edge research and technology development.

Prospective PhD students with previous degrees in engineering who are interested in PhD studies and research in mathematics or statistics are encouraged to apply for PhD studies in Mathematics and Statistics. For more details, visit the Graduate Programs in Mathematics and Statistics webpage.

Phone: 314-935-7520
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Faculty

Interim Chair
R. Martin Arthur (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Martin-Arthur.aspx)
Newton R. and Sarah Louisa Glasgow Wilson Professor of Engineering
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Ultrasonic imaging, electrocardiography

Associate Chair
Hiroaki Mukai (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Hiro-Mukai.aspx)
Professor
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Theory and computational methods for optimization, optimal control, systems theory, electric power system operations, differential games

Endowed Professors
Arye Nehorai (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Arye-Nehorai.aspx)
Eugene and Martha Lohman Professor of Electrical Engineering
PhD, Stanford University
Signal processing, imaging, biomedicine, communications

Joseph A. O’Sullivan (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Joseph-OSullivan.aspx)
Samuel C. Sachs Professor of Electrical Engineering
Dean, UMSL/WUSTL Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program
PhD, Notre Dame University
Information theory, statistical signal processing, imaging science with applications in medicine and security, and recognition theory and systems

Lan Yang (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Lan-Yang.aspx)
Edward H. & Florence G. Skinner Professor of Engineering
PhD, California Institute of Technology
Nano/micro photonics, ultra high-quality optical microcavities, ultra-low-threshold microlasers, nano/micro fabrication, optical sensing, single nanoparticle detection, photonic molecules, photonic materials

Professor
Heinz Schaettler (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Heinz-Schaettler.aspx)
PhD, Rutgers University
Optimal control, nonlinear systems, mathematical models in biomedicine

Associate Professors
Jr-Shin Li (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Jr-Shin-Li.aspx)
Das Family Distinguished Career Development Associate Professor
PhD, Harvard University
Mathematical control theory, optimization, quantum control, biomedical applications

Robert E. Morley Jr. (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Robert-Morley.aspx)
DSc, Washington University
Computer and communication systems, VLSI design, digital signal processing

Assistant Professors
ShiNung Ching (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/ShiNung-Ching.aspx)
Das Family Distinguished Career Development Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Michigan
Systems and control in neural medicine, nonlinear and constrained control, physiologic network dynamics, stochastic control

Zachary Feinstein (https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Zachary-Feinstein.aspx)
PhD, Princeton University
Financial engineering, operations research, variational analysis
Humberto Gonzalez  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Cyber-physical systems, hybrid dynamical systems, optimization, robotics

Matthew D. Lew  
[https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Matthew-Lew.aspx](https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Matthew-Lew.aspx) 
PhD, Stanford University  
Microscopy, biophotonics, computational imaging, nano-optics

Jung-Tsung Shen  
[https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Jung-Tsung-Shen.aspx](https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Jung-Tsung-Shen.aspx)  
Das Family Distinguished Career Development Assistant Professor  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Theoretical and numerical investigations on nanophotonics, optoelectronics, plasmonics, metamaterials

Xuan “Silvia” Zhang  
[https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Xuan-%28Silvia%29-Zhang.aspx](https://engineering.wustl.edu/Profiles/Pages/Xuan-%28Silvia%29-Zhang.aspx)  
PhD, Cornell University  
Robotics, cyber-physical systems, hardware security, ubiquitous computing, embedded systems, computer architecture, VLSI, electronic design automation, control optimization, and biomedical devices and instrumentation

Seniors Professors

I. Norman Katz  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Numerical analysis, differential equations, finite element methods, locational equilibrium problems, algorithms for parallel computations

Paul S. Min  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Routing and control of telecommunication networks, fault tolerance and reliability, software systems, network management

William F. Pickard  
PhD, Harvard University  
Biological transport, electrobiology, energy engineering

Daniel L. Rode  
PhD, Case Western Reserve University  
Optoelectronics and fiber optics, semiconductor materials, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and lasers, semiconductor processing, electronics

Ervin Y. Rodin  
PhD, University of Texas at Austin  
Optimization, differential games, artificial intelligence, mathematical modeling

Barbara A. Shrauner  
PhD, Harvard University (Radcliffe)  
Plasma processing, semiconductor transport, symmetries of nonlinear differential equations

Donald L. Snyder  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Communication theory, random process theory, signal processing, biomedical engineering, image processing, radar

Barry E. Spielman  
PhD, Syracuse University  
High-frequency/high-speed devices, RF & MW integrated circuits, computational electromagnetics

Tzyhong Tarn  
DSc, Washington University  
Quantum mechanical systems, bilinear and nonlinear systems, robotics and automation, life science automation

Professors of Practice

Dedric Carter  
PhD, Nova Southeastern University  
MBA, MIT Sloan School of Management

Dennis Mell  
MS, University of Missouri-Rolla

Ed Richter  
BSEE, Virginia Tech

Senior Lecturer

Martha Hasting  
PhD, Saint Louis University

Lecturers

Randall Brown  
PhD, Washington University

Randall Hoven  
MS, Washington University  
MSEE, Johns Hopkins University  
Sensor/data fusion, Kalman filters, navigation, target tracking

Vladimir Kurenok  
PhD, Belarus State University (Minsk, Belarus)

Tsitsi Madziwa-Nussinov  
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Jason Trobaugh  
DSc, Washington University

Jinsong Zhang  
PhD, University of Miami  
Wireless communication systems, wireless sensor networks, target tracking/data fusion, machine learning/pattern classification

Research Professor

Julius Goldstein  
PhD, University of Rochester  
Auditory system, hearing perception, modeling auditory perception.
Research Associate Professor
David Corman
PhD, University of Maryland
Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), security for CPS, unmanned systems, manufacturing

Research Assistant Professor
Scott Marrus
MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine
Cardiac electrophysiology

Professors Emeriti
William M. Boothby
PhD, University of Michigan
Differential geometry and Lie groups, mathematical system theory

Lloyd R. Brown
DSc, Washington University
Automatic control, electronic instrumentation

David L. Elliott
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
Mathematical theory of systems, nonlinear difference, differential equations

Marvin J. Fisher
PhD, University of Illinois
Energy conversion, power electronics

Robert O. Gregory
DSc, Washington University
Electronic instrumentation, microwave theory, circuit design

Degree Requirements
PhD in Electrical Engineering or Systems Science & Mathematics

The Department of Electrical & Systems Engineering (ESE) at Washington University in St. Louis offers two PhD programs. Both the PhD in Electrical Engineering and the PhD in Systems Science & Mathematics are academic doctoral degrees designed mainly for full-time students interested in an academic, laboratory, and/or industrial research and development career in a specialization within electrical engineering, systems, control, or applied mathematics.

Degree Requirements & Timeline
Students pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Electrical Engineering or Systems Science & Mathematics must complete a minimum of 72 credit hours of post-baccalaureate study consistent with the residency and other applicable requirements of Washington University and the Graduate School. These 72 units must consist of at least 36 units of course work and at least 24 units of research, and may include work done to satisfy the requirements of a master's degree in a related discipline. Up to 24 units may be transferred to Washington University from another institution.

Each candidate for the PhD degree in Electrical Engineering and the PhD degree in Systems Science & Mathematics must:

- Complete at least 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate course work.
- Pass a written qualifying examination, to be taken before the second academic year of the program.
- Pass an oral preliminary research examination, to be completed within two years of passing the written qualifying examination, and at least one year prior to completion of the dissertation.
- Satisfy the general residency requirement for PhD degrees offered by the Graduate School.
- Satisfy the general teaching requirement for PhD degrees offered by the Graduate School.
- Write a doctoral dissertation that describes the results of original and creative research in a specialization within electrical engineering or systems science and mathematics.
- Pass a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation research.
- Take ESE 590 Electrical and Systems Engineering Graduate Seminar each semester.

The PhD degree should ordinarily take no more than five years to complete, for students who enter the program with a baccalaureate degree. While individual circumstances will vary, the typical timeline will be as follows:

- Year 1: Course work and written qualifying examination
- Year 2: Course work, preliminary research, research advisory committee selection
- Year 3: Course work and preliminary research examination
- Year 4: Research
- Year 5: Research, completion of dissertation, and final oral examination

Students who enter the program with a master's degree may be able to shorten this timeline by one year or more.