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  
Website: http://ese.wustl.edu

Faculty

Chair

Bruno Sinopoli  
Das Family Distinguished Professor  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Cyberphysical systems, analysis and design of networked embedded control systems, with applications to sensor actuator networks

Endowed Professors

Shantanu Chakrabarty  
Clifford W. Murphy Professor  
PhD, Johns Hopkins University  
New frontiers in unconventional analog computing techniques using silicon and hybrid substrates, fundamental limits of energy efficiency, sensing and resolution by exploiting computational and adaptation primitives inherent in the physics of devices

Arve Nehorai  
Eugene and Martha Lohman Professor of Electrical Engineering  
PhD, Stanford University  
Statistical signal processing, machine learning, imaging, biomedicine

Joseph A. O’Sullivan  
Samuel C. Sachs Professor of Electrical Engineering  
Dean, UMSL/WashU 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  
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

Professors

Jr-Shin Li  
Professor  
PhD, Harvard University  
Mathematical control theory, optimization, quantum control, biomedical applications

Neal Patwari  
Professor  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Intersection of statistical signal processing and wireless networking for improving wireless sensor networking and radiofrequency sensing

Associate Professors

ShiNung Ching  
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
Assistant Professors

Ulugbek Kamilov (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Ulugbek-Kamilov.html)
PhD, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
Computational imaging, signal processing, biomedical imaging

Mark Lawrence
PhD, University of Birmingham
Nanophotonics, nonlinear optics, metasurfaces

Matthew D. Lew (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Matthew-Lew.html)
PhD, Stanford University
Microscopy, biophotonics, computational imaging, nano-optics

PhD, University of Southern California
Flexible electronics, stretchable electronics, printed electronics, nanomaterials, nanoelectronics, optoelectronics

Yong Wang (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Yong-Wang.html)
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
Biomedical engineering, life science, human physiology, magnetic resonance imaging, electrocardiographic imaging

Shen Zeng (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Shen-Zeng.html)
PhD, University of Stuttgart
Systems and control theory, data-based analysis and control of complex dynamical systems, inverse problems, biomedical applications

Xuan “Silvia” Zhang (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Xuan-Silvia-Zhang.html)
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

Senior Professors

Paul S. Min (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Paul-Min.html)
PhD, University of Michigan
Routing and control of telecommunication networks, fault tolerance and reliability, software systems, network management

DSc, Washington University in St. Louis
Computer engineering, lower-power VLSI design, computer architecture, signal processing, microprocessors systems design

Hiro Mukai (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Hiro-Mukai.html)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Theory and computational methods for optimization, optimal control, systems theory, electric power system operations, differential games

William F. Pickard (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/William-Pickard.html)
PhD, Harvard University
Biological transport, electrophysiology, energy engineering

PhD, Case Western Reserve University
Optoelectronics and fiber optics, semiconductor materials, light-emitting diodes and lasers, semiconductor processing, electronics

Ervin Y. Rodin (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Ervin-Rodin.html)
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
Optimization, differential games, artificial intelligence, mathematical modeling

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

Barbara A. Shrauner (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Barbara-Shrauner.html)
PhD, Harvard University (Radcliffe)
Plasma processing, semiconductor transport, symmetries of nonlinear differential equations

Donald L. Snyder (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Donald-Snyder.html)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Communication theory, random process theory, signal processing, biomedical engineering, image processing, radar

Barry E. Spielman (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Barry-Spielman.html)
PhD, Syracuse University
High-frequency/high-speed devices, radiofrequency and microwave integrated circuits, computational electromagnetics
Tzyh Jong Tarn (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/TJ-Tarn.html)
DSc, Washington University
Quantum mechanical systems, bilinear and nonlinear systems, robotics and automation, life science automation

Professors of Practice

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

Dennis Mell (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Dennis-Mell.html)
MS, University of Missouri-Rolla
Industrial automation, robotics and mechatronics, product design and development with design-for-manufacturability emphasis, prototyping, manufacturing

MS, Washington University
Signal processing applications implemented on a variety of platforms, including ASIC, FPGA, DSP, microcontroller and desktop computers

Jason Trobaugh (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Jason-Trobaugh.html)
DSc, Washington University
Ultrasound imaging, diffuse optical tomography, image-guided therapy, ultrasonic temperature imaging

Teaching Professor

James Feher (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/James-Feher.html)
PhD, Missouri University of Science and Technology
Electrical engineering, computer science, mathematics and physics

Senior Lecturers

Martha Hasting (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Martha-Hasting.html)
PhD, Saint Louis University
Mathematics education

Vladimir Kurenok (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Vladimir-Kurenok.html)
PhD, Belarus State University (Minsk, Belarus)
Probability and stochastic processes, stochastic ordinary and partial differential equations, financial mathematics

PhD, University of Miami
Modeling and performance analysis of wireless sensor networks, multi-source information fusion, ambiguous and incomplete information processing

Lecturers

Tsitsi Madziwa-Nussinov (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Tsitsi-Nussinov.html)
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

PhD, Virginia Tech
Fiber optic sensing and practical experience in sensor implementation and field test

Professors Emeriti

Newton R. and Sarah Louisa Glasgow Wilson Professor of Engineering
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Ultrasonic imaging, electrocardiography

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

Degree Requirements

PhD in Electrical Engineering or Systems Science & Mathematics

The Department of Electrical & Systems Engineering 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.

Students pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Electrical Engineering or Systems Science & Mathematics must complete a minimum of 72 credit units 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 course units 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 do the following:

- Complete at least 36 credit units of post-baccalaureate courses.
- Complete the qualifying process (which includes a qualifying examination) and match with a research mentor before the second academic year of the program.
- Pass an oral preliminary research examination, to be completed within two academic years of completing the qualifying process.
- Satisfy the general teaching requirement as specified for the department.
- 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 & Systems Engineering Graduate Seminar each semester.