

# ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting

## Thursday, April 6th, 2023

**Attending:** Arabshahi , Chen, Hwang, , Kirschen, Moritz, Overly, Suresh, Swanson, Thomas, Van Fossen, Wilson

### **Agenda:**

1. Number of EE 499 credits allowed to apply to Advanced ECE Electives in BSECE degree (Overly)
2. Discussion of BSECE core course and possible change to require some or all core courses be completed in first year in program
3. Discussion of proposed change to EE 215 to split course into an ECE section and separate non-major section (POSPONED)

### **Number of EE 499 credits allowed to apply to Advanced ECE Electives in BSECE degree (Overly)**

After reviewing the BSECE degree requirement of 36 Advanced ECE Electives at the 300 level or higher, Overly raised a concern regarding the number of EE 499 research credits that are allowed to apply.

- Of the 36 required credits, 20 must be taken at the 4xx level.
- Currently, the requirement allows up to 10 credits of EE 499 credit to apply toward the 20 required 400 level credits. (Or 10 credits of ENGR 321 internship and EE 499 combined.)
  - There is currently a maximum of 4 credits of ENGR 321 allowed for the BSECE degree.
- The concern raised is that a student could take 10 credits of EE 499 and only need 10 more credits of coursework at the 400 level, possibly only 2 courses. The question raised is whether more coursework at the 400 level should be required by dropping the number of EE 499 credits allowed.
- Allowing 10 credits for the BSEE degree differed in that there were still a number of 4xx level courses required under each concentration, forcing students to have a larger number of 4xx level coursework credits completed upon graduation.

**Motion to change number of combined EE 499 and ENGR 321 credits allowed to apply to Advanced ECE Electives to 6 credits, effective for students entering program starting Autumn 2023: Approved**

### **Discussion of BSECE core course and possible change to require some or all core courses be completed in first year in program (Overly)**

Currently, the BSECE does not have a required timeline for when students must complete the core courses in the degree. This leads to a potential concern where students may put off one or more of the core courses until late in their program, thus blocking them from current paths through the curriculum, or causing them to delay their time to graduation by not taking them in time.

- The question raised is whether the department should change the requirement to require students to complete all or a select group of the core courses to be completed in the first year in the program. (Or by the end of their “junior” year.)
- Thomas mentioned that, with such a large group of core courses, monitoring is complicated as it must be reviewed each quarter for Satisfactory Progress requirements.
  - This is already difficult just within the BSEE program with only 3 courses in the core.

## ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting

### Thursday, April 6th, 2023

- Makhsous suggested the department should require the foundational core courses of EE 215, EE 241/242, and EE 271 since those four are the prerequisites of all the other EE courses.
  - Overly mentioned that EE 280 is also planned to become a prerequisite, and that it was not currently since it was a new course this year and making it a prerequisite for other courses would keep a significant number of students from taking some upper division courses.
- No consensus was found among the committee members on which, if any, courses should be required, with concern that the programs designed flexibility might be hampered.
- Kirschen suggested the department “strongly suggest” the core courses be done early, but not require it.

**Discussion tabled for time and will require further discussion.**