

ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025

Attending: Arabshahi, Chen, Fazel, Hauck, Kirschen, Kaushansky, Moritz, Overly, Reyes, Rudell, Shepard, Van Fossen

Absent: Bushnell, Dela Cruz, Huberman, Majumdar, Swanson

Minutes of Feb. 25th, 2025: Approved

Meeting Slides: [Link](#)

Agenda:

1. EE 445 Course Change Proposal ([MCD](#), [Slides](#))
2. Writing Requirement - Continued

Course Change Proposal for EE 445: Foundations of Optimization and Machine Learning

With the aim of splitting EE 445: Foundations of Optimization and Machine Learning into two courses due to the amount of material, the committee previously approved a new course [EE 345: Introduction to Foundations of Machine Learning](#). With some of the content from EE 445 now moved to the new course, Fazel presented a revised version of EE 445 to create the courses as a series, with EE 345 a prerequisite to EE 445.

- See [MCD](#) and [Slides](#) for details of proposal

Motion to approve proposed revisions to EE 445: Foundations of Optimization and Machine Learning: APPROVED

Discussion of Writing Requirement for Students in the BSECE Program

Following on discussions from the previous meeting, the committee continued the topic of needed changes how students can satisfy the university's writing ("W") requirement.

- Overly explained that 4 credits of the requirement are currently covered by another BSECE major requirement, the "Advanced Technical Communications" requirement.

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- Currently, student can only satisfy the requirements by completion of EE 393: Advanced Technical Communication
- Previously, ENGR 333: Advanced Technical Communication in the Engineering Workplace was an alternative, but the College of Engineering is no longer offering the course.
- The department needs to get 300+ students through EE 393 per year to ensure students can take the course and graduate on time.
- If the department moves to allowing and “W” course offered by the university to satisfy all UW required “W” credits aside from the 5 credits of English Composition, then the Advanced Technical Communication requirement will likely need to be removed completely.
- Arabshahi wondered if it would be possible to add “W” credit to all capstones.
 - Would provide a minimum of 4 credits of “W” credit for all students.
 - Hauck like the idea of allowing instructors the option of adding it, but did not believe it should be required for all capstones. Additionally, providing “W” credits for some of the lower-enrolled capstones might increase their enrollment.
 - Additional work would be required in the capstones to provide the credit.
 - Kaushansky mentioned that her ENGINE project required writing.
 - Kirschen raised the concern around ensuring the writing credits were assessed individually, with the group nature of capstones potentially making it difficult.
 - Regarding ABET, Chen explained that “writing” was not a specific outcome that needed to be assessed, and that the related outcome that is assessed is “Outcome 3 - Communication: An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences.”

The committee will continue discussion of options at a subsequent meeting.