ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting
Monday, February 9th , 2026

Attending: Arabshahi, Hauck, Rudell, Sallows, Swanson, Miller, Thomas, Mouradian, Chen, Reyes, Shlizerman, Huberman, Kirschen, Mishra, Perez, Van Fosen

Absent: Bushnell, Dela Cruz, Eley, Lim, Moritz

Agenda:

1. Updates to EE 497 Prerequisite List – Presenter – Arabshahi

Updates to EE 497 Prerequisite List

Arabshahi discussed with the committee updates to the official listed prerequisites in the UW Catalog. Arabshahi, Thomas, and Miller present a condensed prerequisite list designed to fit catalog character limits, including core courses with 2.0 grades and one upper-level course from areas like machine learning, communications, controls, power, and embedded systems.

- Proposed list of courses and requirements:
    - A minimum grade of 2.0 in E E 201 and E E 215 and E E 241 and E E 242 and E E 271 and E E 280 and CSE 123; and one additional course from E E 342, E E 344, E E 361, E E 416, E E 418, E E 447, E E 452, E E 454, E E 469, E E 474, or E E 484; recommended: E E 496
- Faculty raise concerns that this wording may discourage students who don't fit the exact list from applying or make them hesitant to contact advising for exceptions.
    - Rudell asked how the listed courses were selected and where the preparation of more advanced students was being accounted for. Rudell then raised concerns about the lack of circuit-related courses on the list
    - Arabshahi noted that the proposed prerequisite list reflects courses that past students have found useful for success in Engine projects
    - Thomas explained that advising already maintains a more detailed and flexible internal prerequisite list for Engine, reflecting the wide range of possible project types.
    - Mouradian expressed concerns that the depth of the list might scare students away – specifically students who are less inclined to reach out to advising with questions

    - Sallows expressed concern that students might shy away from Engine if they see a long list of prerequisites
    - Miller acknowledged that some students may not engage with advising regardless but argued that students opting out earlier due to perceived preparation requirements is a preferable outcome to students entering Engine without adequate background because the catalog currently lists no prerequisites.
    - Hauck raised concerns about the long-term viability of a fixed prerequisite list, noting that the field evolves rapidly and questioning how the list would adapt to changing, industry-driven expectations over the next five years.
    - Hauck suggested an alternative approach of breaking Engine into sub-listings in the catalog by project type, with distinct prerequisite language for each category.
    - Shlizerman suggested adding additional checks or guidance mechanisms to help students plan the timing of preparatory courses for Engine, including the possibility of tooling or automated advising support.
    - Thomas emphasized ongoing advising efforts to communicate to students the importance of having backup plans in case their preferred Engine project is unavailable due to capacity or other constraints.
    - Sallows asked whether, under the current catalog language, it would be possible for a student to reach the point of entering Engine without completing foundational courses such as CSE 123.
- The committee decides not to vote on the proposal, with Arabshahi agreeing to explore whether the curriculum office might allow language like "department-approved list" as an exception and to reconsider the approach with senior faculty input.
    - Swanson suggested connecting with Van Fossen to get fresh perspective on EE497 prerequisite wording challenges

Next Steps: Arabshahi agrees to continue eliciting feedback and workshopping this proposal to present at a later date.