MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COASTAL AND ECOLOGICAL ENGINEERING (SCECO)
Checklist, Instructions and Degree Requirements

Time Limit: Programs for master’s degrees must be completed within 5 years from entrance into a degree program. (Please note that courses cannot count towards degree requirements if they have been taken over 5 years prior to graduation unless they are revalidated. For more information about how to revalidate courses, please see the Graduate Coordinator.)

CE 7750 Graduate Seminar: All full-time graduate students in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering are required to enroll in a Graduate Seminar course every fall and spring semester. Part-time graduate students are excluded from this requirement but are required to enroll in a seminar course during the semester in which they plan to graduate. If a student is unable to enroll in a seminar course, such as in the case of a scheduling conflict, the student should discuss this with their assigned faculty advisor and then contact the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Departmental Approval: Forms that require departmental approval should be submitted prior to CEGPC meetings, which take place roughly 2 times per semester. An email will be sent to students to announce the meeting as a reminder. Failure to submit your forms prior to the meeting may cause it to be moved to subsequent meeting.

Meeting Room Reservations: If you would like to reserve a conference room (such as for a meeting with your committee, a defense, etc.) please email the Graduate Coordinator with your request.

*** For more detailed information regarding program (course work, committee, and thesis) requirements, visit http://www.lsu.edu/eng/cee/academics/graduate/ms-coastal-and-ecological-engineering.php

CHECKLIST & INSTRUCTIONS FOR 1ST YEAR

- Upon arrival and prior to the beginning of your first semester, you must attend the orientation sessions prior to registration. The Graduate School offers orientation for new graduate students only prior to the fall semester. It is especially important for international students to attend international student orientation and students should receive orientation information in your admission and/or I20 packet. More information about international student orientation here: https://www.lsu.edu/intlpro/is/prospective-students/arrival-services/orientation.php
- You must meet with your assigned faculty advisor to discuss scheduling for your first semester and (if applicable) any details of your graduate assistantship position. The name of your assigned faculty advisor can be found in your admission recommendation letter from the department (sent to you via email).
- After meeting with your assigned faculty advisor, you must meet with the Graduate Coordinator. You will be given some information about the department and the Graduate Coordinator will have you complete a G104 Graduate Student Information Form (department form). Also, if you have a graduate assistantship position, you will be given instructions on how
to complete onboarding forms in Workday. These forms should be completed as soon as possible to avoid payment delay.

- During the first year, students (with the assistance of their advisor) must set up a master’s thesis committee.

- By the end of the first year and definitely before the start of their second year, students should work with their advisor to complete the G101 Graduate Degree Program form (department form) to map out their plan of study. The plan of study should show that leveling course requirements are satisfied for students who do not have an undergraduate degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering. After completion of the G101 Graduate Degree Program Form, the form should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator for CEGPC approval. After approval is received, a digital copy of the approved form will be kept in the student’s file and the physical copy returned to the student. If, in the future, any changes are made to this plan of study, to the committee, to the thesis title or if the student changes advisors, the G102 Revision to Graduate Degree Program form (department form) must be completed immediately. This form should be signed by the student’s original advisor, initialed by the other committee members and then submitted to the Graduate Coordinator for CEGPC approval. (Important Note: The Request for Final Master’s Defense, a Graduate School form, will not be approved unless an approved Graduate Degree Program form G101 is already on file.)

- A thesis proposal (with the cover page G103 Master’s and Ph.D. Proposal Form, a department form, signed by ALL committee members) should be submitted for department approval at least one semester prior to the anticipated graduation date.

CHANGES TO AN ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE

- A student’s Advisory Committee should be established during the first semester. If the student’s Advisory Committee has already been established and the student/committee chair determine that a change to this committee is needed:
  - The committee chair must call for a meeting with the student and all other committee members to formally discuss the proposed change.
  - After the meeting is finished, the committee chair must submit the Change of Advisory Committee Member section in the G102 form and submit to the Graduate Program Coordinator, along with an attached memo to the graduate school. This form must be approved and signed by all committee members.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- This degree program only offers a Thesis option. For details regarding program requirements, visit http://www.lsu.edu/eng/cee/academics/graduate/ms-coastal-and-ecological-engineering.php

- As your graduating semester approaches, you should familiarize yourself with the Graduate School’s expectations by visiting their Steps to Graduation page here: https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/currentstudents/steps-to-graduation.php

- Application for Master’s Degree (form found on the Graduate School website) submitted to Graduate School during the graduating semester and before the semester deadline set by the Graduate School (see graduate school calendar).
  - Please route this form through the Graduate Coordinator so they can save a copy of the form to your digital file. They will submit to the Graduate School on your behalf.
Request for Final Master's Defense (form found on the Graduate School website) should be submitted to the Graduate School at least 3 weeks prior to the defense and/or before the semester deadline set by the Graduate School (to allow adequate time to acquire all necessary signatures, students should really start preparing the form at least 4 weeks in advance of the deadline). Once the defense request is approved, the Graduate Coordinator will inform the student and their committee members of the approval. If the defense is approaching soon (within 2-3 days) and the student and committee has not received an email regarding the approval, please consult with the Graduate Coordinator so that the issue can be investigated. Also, if ANY changes are made to the details of the defense, the student is responsible for advising their committee and the Graduate Coordinator of these changes as soon as they are known.

- Please route this form through the Graduate Coordinator so they can save a copy of the form to your digital file. They will submit to the Graduate School on your behalf.

- Thesis should be submitted to the Advisory Committee at least 3 weeks before the final defense date.

- After the completion of the defense, the Final Defense Results (pass/fail sheet) and Thesis Approval Report must be submitted by the committee chair to the Graduate Coordinator for submission to the Graduate School. (Important Note: These sheets are not ever to be handled by the student).

- Final thesis should be submitted by the student to the Graduate School before the semester deadline set by the Graduate School. Please refer to the Thesis formatting and submission details can be found here: https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/currentstudents/theses_and_dissertations/index.php

- Prior to graduation and leaving the university, if a student held a graduate assistantship position, the advisor should conduct a final evaluation interview with the student to evaluate the student’s performance. The RA Evaluation Form and/or TA Evaluation Form for this evaluation should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator prior to graduation. The advisor can obtain the appropriate form from the Graduate Coordinator. Please note that both the advisor’s and student’s signatures must be on the form when submitted. Also, to avoid unnecessary charges and possible liabilities, GAs who have office/lab keys should return them to the department following the appropriate procedures.
SCECO PROGRAM CONTACTS

CEE: Clinton S. Willson, Ph.D., P.E., LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, 102 ELAB, cwillson@lsu.edu, 225-578-8672

DOCS: Robert Twilley, Ph.D., Executive Director, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program and Profess, Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, 239 Sea Gran Building, rwtilley@lsu.edu, 225-578-6445

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND RESOURCES

Graduate Programs Advisor
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Important Reminders

• This checklist was created as a guide to students in the Coastal and Ecological Engineering graduate program. It is not meant to replace the Graduate School Bulletin, which is the official document for Graduate Student rules and regulations. The current Graduate School Bulletin can be found online at the Graduate School website: http://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/

• A student’s assigned faculty advisor should be the student’s first point of contact for all questions regarding graduate issues.

• All forms requiring either the Graduate Programs Advisor’s or Department Chair’s signature should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator at least two business days prior to the due date to allow adequate time to acquire these signatures.

• It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of and to adhere to all established deadlines and due dates. The Graduate School Calendar (issued each academic semester) is available on the Graduate School Website and, as a courtesy, will also be emailed to all students periodically.

• To schedule a meeting with the Graduate Programs Advisor, a student and/or the student’s advisor should email the Graduate Coordinator to coordinate a meeting.

• All forms must be TYPED.

For Department forms, please visit our forms page on our website:
http://www.lsu.edu/eng/cee/academics/graduate/forms.php

For Graduate School forms, please visit their forms page on their website:
https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/currentstudents/enrolled_student_forms.php

For academic deadlines, visit the LSU Academic Calendar here:
https://www.lsu.edu/registrar/academics/academic-calendar.php

For Graduate School deadlines, visit the LSU Graduate School Calendar here:
https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/calendars.php