ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

Graduate studies in architectural engineering are offered through the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering. The department offers a PhD degree with study emphases in several major areas:

- building systems engineering
- construction engineering and management
- engineering for developing communities

For more information, visit the department’s Graduate Studies webpage.

Requirements

For a Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) in architectural engineering, students need at least 30 hours of graduate-level course work plus a dissertation.

For an entrant from another university, up to 21 hours of acceptable graduate courses may be transferred, leaving at least 9 hours of course work to be completed at the University of Colorado upon the approval of their advisors. The transfer credits are transferable at the discretion of the research advisor, and students may be asked to take additional courses toward the completion of their degree. Work already applied toward a graduate degree received from the University of Colorado or another institution cannot be accepted for transfer toward another graduate degree of the same level at the University of Colorado. All courses accepted for transfer must be graduate-level courses. A course in which a grade of B- or lower was received will not be accepted for transfer.

For students already in the MS program in the CEAE department, 30 hours of graduate course work performed at CU is applicable towards the PhD degree upon the approval of their advisors. The PhD also requires that 30 hours of dissertation credit be taken, with a minimum residency of 2 years. After passing the comprehensive exam, PhD candidates are required to maintain continuous registration. Candidates must register for at least 5 hours of dissertation credits each semester.

Preliminary Examination

Each doctoral student shall take a preliminary examination as determined by the faculty of the specialty area in which the student is enrolled, normally not later than 12 months from the time the student is first enrolled in the doctoral program. Each CEAE group has a designated time for PhD students to take the exam. Students should discuss the schedule, date and format of the exam with their academic adviser.

Comprehensive Examination

Before admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree, students must pass a comprehensive examination, which shall consist of a written and an oral examination in the field of concentration and related fields. At the comprehensive examination, the student shall present a plan for the dissertation research to the Advisory Committee for approval.

PhD Dissertation

Students must write a dissertation based on original research conducted under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. The dissertation must fulfill all Graduate School requirements. After the dissertation is completed, an oral final examination on the dissertation and related topics is conducted by the student’s doctoral committee.

Time Limit

All degree requirements must be completed within six years of the date of commencing course work.