

REVISED ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION FOR THE EP PROGRAM/PH.D

The PhD students matriculating in the Engineering Physics Program at UVA will be required to take a total of ten (10) graduate courses. Four (4) must be approved courses in Physics, two (2) of which must be from the traditional Physics course combinations PHYS 521 and 831, PHYS 742/743 or PHYS 751/752 and four (4) graduate courses in Engineering/SEAS. In addition two (2) courses in applied mathematics or computational physics, etc. are required.

After completing six (6) courses (3 in physics and 3 in SEAS with a B average or better in each group), the student can petition the EP Program for a comprehensive Exam comprised of a written and an oral part. The written part will cover two focus areas selected by the student (one in Physics and one in SEAS). A focus area is defined by two thematically connected courses as approved by the advisor and the EP Program Coordinators. Two sets of questions – one set from each area – must be answered in a 4 hour period. The written portion will be followed after about two weeks by an oral exam covering the selected focus areas including the material addressed in the written exam. The Examining Committee will be comprised of three professors – at least one from Physics and one from SEAS – related to the selected focus areas. All areas chosen by the student must be connected to upper level graduate courses. After passing the Comprehensive Examination the student may present a thesis proposal during the following semester.

The guidelines stated above refer to students entering the program with B.S. degree.

Students entering the Engineering Physics Ph.D. Program with an M.S. degree in science or engineering are required to complete four (4) graduate level courses (2 in physics and 2 in SEAS with a B average or better in each group) prior to the comprehensive exam. The student can then petition the EP Program for a comprehensive exam comprised of a written and an oral part. The two (2) required physics courses, which comprise the physics section of the exam, must be from the traditional physics course combinations PHYS 521 and 831, PHYS 742/743 or PHYS 751/752.

P. Reinke
W.A. Soffa

UVA/SEAS July 2009