


Fall 2026 Academic Webinar

Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering



Agenda



- 01 Department Introductions
 - 02 Degree Requirements
 - 03 Registration Information
 - 04 Contacting Your Advisor
 - 05 Important Dates & Next Steps
 - 06 Resources
 - 07 Frequently Asked Questions and Q&A
- 

..... Department Leadership



Richard Leahy
Department Chair



Michelle Povinelli
Vice Chair



Mark Redekopp
Associate Chair,
Undergraduate
Programs



Peter Beerel
Associate Chair,
Graduate
Programs

Meet Your Advisor!



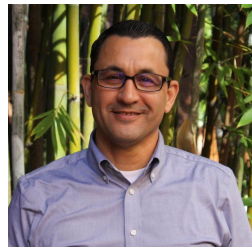
Samantha Graves
Student Services Manager



Gabby Garcia
Sr. Student Services Advisor
Last Names: K-L



Patty Rinehart
Sr. Student Services Advisor
Last Names: A-J



Jaimie Zelada
Student Services Specialist
Last Names: M-T



Vianey Villaseñor
Student Services Specialist
Last Names: U-Z

Academic Advising

Advisors support the academic journey of students by providing resources and program requirement information, which contribute to the students' understanding and overall academic success.

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
9:00AM - 5:00PM



- Hughes Aircraft Electrical Engineering Center
- Corner of McClintock Ave and 37th Pl, next to RTH
- EEB 102 – ECE Student Services main office

Viterbi Student and Academic Services (VSAS)

- DEN@Viterbi
- Reduced Course Load (RCL)
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Program Extension (PE)
- Leave of Absence (LOA)

ECE Student Services

- Registration Inquires
- Course Planning
- Personal Wellness
- Academic Performance Concern
- Course withdrawal plans
- Engagement opportunities

Advising at Viterbi

Viterbi views advising as a collaborative partnership between students and advisors.



Advisors support students' academic journey by:

- Guiding students through policies, processes, and academic planning
- Providing guidance on program and degree requirements
- Connecting students with other campus offices and resources when needed

Actively engage in their education by:

- Familiarizing yourself with the University Catalogue
- Reviewing STARS Report regularly to track degree progress
- Tracking Holds





02

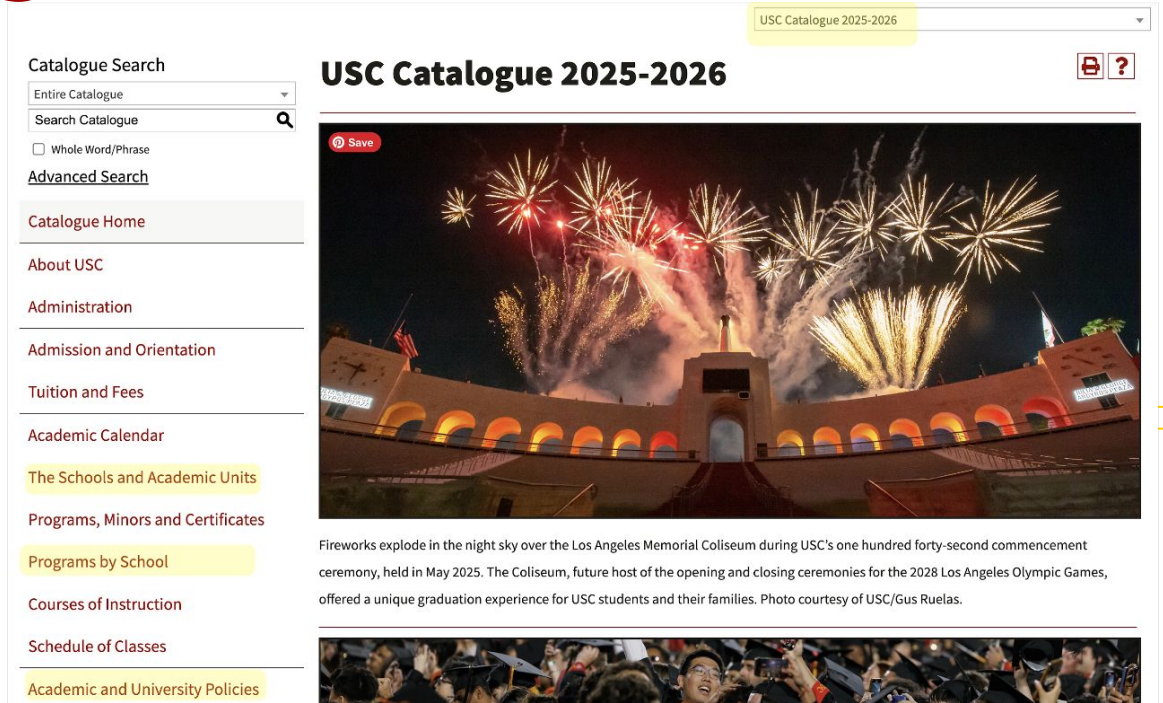
Degree Requirements

USC Catalogue

The USC Catalogue is the official university source for important information regarding policies, procedures, degree, and graduation requirements

The Catalogue is updated every academic year - it is important to ensure that you are reviewing the Catalogue that is relevant to your academic year (catalogue year).

<https://catalogue.usc.edu/>



The screenshot shows the USC Catalogue website for the 2025-2026 academic year. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links to 'Catalogue Search', 'Catalogue Home', 'About USC', 'Administration', 'Admission and Orientation', 'Tuition and Fees', 'Academic Calendar', 'The Schools and Academic Units', 'Programs, Minors and Certificates', 'Programs by School', 'Courses of Instruction', 'Schedule of Classes', and 'Academic and University Policies'. The main content area displays the title 'USC Catalogue 2025-2026' and a large image of fireworks exploding over the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Below the image, there is a caption: 'Fireworks explode in the night sky over the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during USC's one hundred forty-second commencement ceremony, held in May 2025. The Coliseum, future host of the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, offered a unique graduation experience for USC students and their families. Photo courtesy of USC/Gus Ruelas.'

Experience USC - My Academics

My Academics

Get informed on your student records and resources

My Fall 2024 Registered Courses

View Other Semesters >

Visit the [USC Bookstore](#) for your class books. Additionally, we recommend consulting your course syllabus for further details.
Please note: changes made to your registered courses in other systems may take some time to reflect in Experience USC.

UTC-07	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TBA
10 am		DES 303 2562, Lecture Online	BUIC 450 2569, Lecture TRM 202	DES 303 2562, Lecture Online	BUIC 450 2569, Lecture TRM 202	DES 203 2563, Lecture Online		CS 245 5026, Lecture ATA 215
11 am						DES 303 2568, Lecture Online		CS 235 5024, Lab SOM 202
12 pm								
1 pm		CS 236 2567, Lecture MM 211		CS 236 2567, Lecture MM 211				
2 pm			CS 2... 3342... 452... 452...	CS 4... 3342... 452... 452...		CS 2... 3342... 452... 452...	CS 4... 3342... 452... 452...	

AUGUST

23

WEDNESDAY

My Fall 2024 Registration Appointment Date Begins:
August 23, 2022 at 11:00 AM PST

[Go to Web Registration](#) [View Academic Calendar](#)
[Read Statements of Responsibility](#)

You have 3 activity restrictions for Fall 2024 semester

[View Registration Information >](#)

My Degree Progress & Planning Tools

Academic Records	STARS Report	Transfer Credit Report	Course Transfer Pre-approval	Articulation Petition
A comprehensive view of your grade report, unofficial transcript and enrollment history. View Academic Records	Detailed listing of a student's degree requirements that have been met and those that remain to be fulfilled. View STARS Report	Credit granted for transfer courses and exams (AP, IB, etc.). For undergraduates only. View Transfer Credit Report	Provides verification of course transferability for continuing USC students only. Request Course Transfer Pre-Approval	Request a change in the way your coursework has been evaluated on your Transfer Credit Report (TCR). Submit Articulation Petition

2020 Electrical and Computer E...▼

You may directly access the following sections in the STARS report

- [Pertinent Data Section](#)
- [Legend](#)
- [Units Required for Degree](#)
- [University and Major GPA](#)

Completed degree requirements are indicated using blue text and "OK" at the beginning of the section.

Outstanding requirements needed to graduate are indicated with red text and "No" at the beginning of the section.

Courses with a 5-digit code indicate the year and semester.

Codes ending in 1 – Spring, 2 – Summer, 3 – Fall. Examples can be found in the legend.

PREPARED: 11/21/25 – 10:57

PROGRAM: 2020

STARS – DEGREE PROGRESS REPORT

Master of Science

Electrical and Computer Engineering

CATALOG YEAR: 20253

GRADUATE PERTINENT DATA SECTION:

Term of USC Admission 20261

CURRENT POST:	DEGREE	MAJOR	UNIT	EFFECTIVE TERM
	2020	MS	ECE ENGR	20261

Policies

The university lists academic policies that students must comply with in order to graduate with their degree program.

GPA	Graduate students are required to maintain a B average (3.0 GPA) while enrolled in a master's program. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Both in their <u>applied</u> (major) and <u>overall</u> GPAs.
Passing Grade	Minimum of a C or better. Pass/No Pass option is NOT allowed.
Continuous Enrollment	All students must be enrolled in fall and spring terms. Summer is optional. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Must request Leave of Absences for fall or spring (maximum 4)
Time Limit	Graduate students have 5 years to complete their degree program.
<u>Academic Integrity</u>	There are serious consequences to cheating and plagiarism.

03

Registration



Course Load

- Part-time status: 1-4 units
- Full-time status: 8 units
 - Not required for domestic students
 - International master's students must be in 8 units
- • Maximum number of courses each semester: Varies by program

□ Students must register for at least 1 course each fall and spring semester to satisfy continuous enrollment. □



Course Load Considerations

Course load may vary based on:

- Work status and duties
- Financial aid/ scholarship requirements
- Personal responsibilities
- Student health insurance

Be aware that the number of units you are enrolled in each semester **can affect financial aid, student health insurance, visa status, etc.** Speak to the offices you are associated with to discuss your enrollment status plans with ample time.

Fall 2026 Course Recommendations

We recommend no more than two courses (8.0 units) in the first semester with the exception of the MS in ECE-Machine Learning and Data Science and MS in Financial Engineering degree majors.

MSECE-General Degree Focus Areas Only

Communications	EE 450 (4), EE 503 (4), EE 510 (4)
Computer Architecture	EE 450 (4), EE 457 (4), EE 477 (4)
Computer Networks	EE 450 (4), EE 457 (4), EE 503 (4)
Controls	EE 503 (4), EE 510 (4)
Data Science	EE 483 (4), EE 503 (4), EE 510 (4)
Electric Power Systems	EE 443 (4), EE 444 (4)
Electromagnetics, Optics, Photonics	EE 529 (4), EE 530 (4), EE 539 (4)
Signal and Image Processing	EE 483 (4), EE 503 (4), EE 510 (4)
VLSI/CAD	EE 457 (4), EE 477 (4)
Analog, Mixed-Signal, and Radiofreq.	EE 477 (4), EE 536a (4), EE 537 (4)

Fall 2026 Course Recommendations

MSECE-Computer Architecture Degree

EE 450 (4), EE 457 (4), EE 477 (4)

MS-Computer Engineering (CENG) Degree

EE 450 (4), EE 457 (4), EE 477 (4), EE 503 (4)

MSECE-Computer Networks Degree

EE 450 (4), EE 457 (4), EE 503 (4)

MSECE-Machine Learning and Data Science Degree

EE 503 (4), EE 510 (4), **plus** EE 538 (2) **or** EE 541 (2)

MSECE-Hardware Systems for Machine Learning*

EE 457 (4), EE 477 (4)

MSECE-Electric Power Degree

EE 443 (4), EE 444 (4)

Fall 2026 Course Recommendations

MSECE-VLSI Design Degree

EE 457 (4), EE 477 (4)

MSECE-Wireless Networks Degree

EE 450 (Placement Exam)** , EE 503 (4), EE 483 (4)

MS-Financial Engineering (MS-FINE) Degree

EE 503 (4), EE 518 (4) plus GSBA 548 (3)***

MS-Quantum Information Science

EE 520 (4), EE 510 (4)

MS-ECE (Analog, Mixed-Signal and Radio-frequency Integrated Circuits)

EE 477 (4)**** , EE 537 (4), EE 536a (4)

MS-Applied Physics

AME 506 (4), EE 530 (4), EE 539 (4)

MS-Electrical Engineering/Engineering Management (EEMG) Dual Degree

Follow the MSECE-general degree and ISE degree requirements per catalogue policy.

Please contact your academic advisor for specific details.

Fall 2026 Course Recommendations

Major specific notes:

- * **Hardware Systems** - If placement exam is passed for either EE 457 and/or EE 477, then consider taking EE 503 or EE 510 or another recommended prep class listed for your major (CSCI 402 or EE 451 or EE 454 as your second course).
- ** **Wireless Networks** - Students enrolled in the MSEE-Wireless Networks degree program must pass the EE 450 placement exam or register for EE 450. Please note that if you register for EE 450, this course will not count toward your degree.
- *** **Financial Engineering** – Students must prioritize EE 503 and EE 518 in 1st semester, and if opt to take a 3rd course, then select GSBA 548 also.
- **** **MS-ECE (Analog, Mixed-Signal...)** - students can opt to take the EE 477 placement exam, and if passed, then would register for EE 577a instead.

Fall 2026 Course Recommendations

- Full-time enrollment for MS students at USC is a minimum of 8.0 units (2-3 courses).
- Placement Exams are available for the following courses: EE 450, EE 457, EE 477.
- EE 590 (Directed Research) is not allowed in your first semester.
- No CSCI courses in the 1st semester: As a first semester ECE graduate student, you are not allowed to register in a CSCI course. No D-clearance will be granted to you. Only continuing ECE students (2nd semester or above) may request D-clearance from the CSCI Department.

Pre-requisites and Waivers

▼ ASTE-571: Solid Rocket Propulsion

Fundamental concepts, implementation and applications of solid rocket propulsion. Propellants, performance, ballistics, structures and systems used for space launch vehicles, sounding rockets and rocket motors.

PRE-REQUISITES: ASTE-575



Section	Session	Type	Units	Registered	Time	Days	Instructor	Location	
28490 R	048	Lecture	3.0	6 of 30	07:00pm-09:40pm	T	Reese, David	RTH105	<input type="button" value="Add to myCourseBin"/>
28491 D	034	Lecture	3.0	1 of 40	07:00pm-09:40pm	T	Reese, David	DEN@Viterbi	<input type="button" value="Add to myCourseBin"/>

A pre-requisite is a course that needs to be taken prior to the desired class.

- Depending on the class, students can request a waiver.

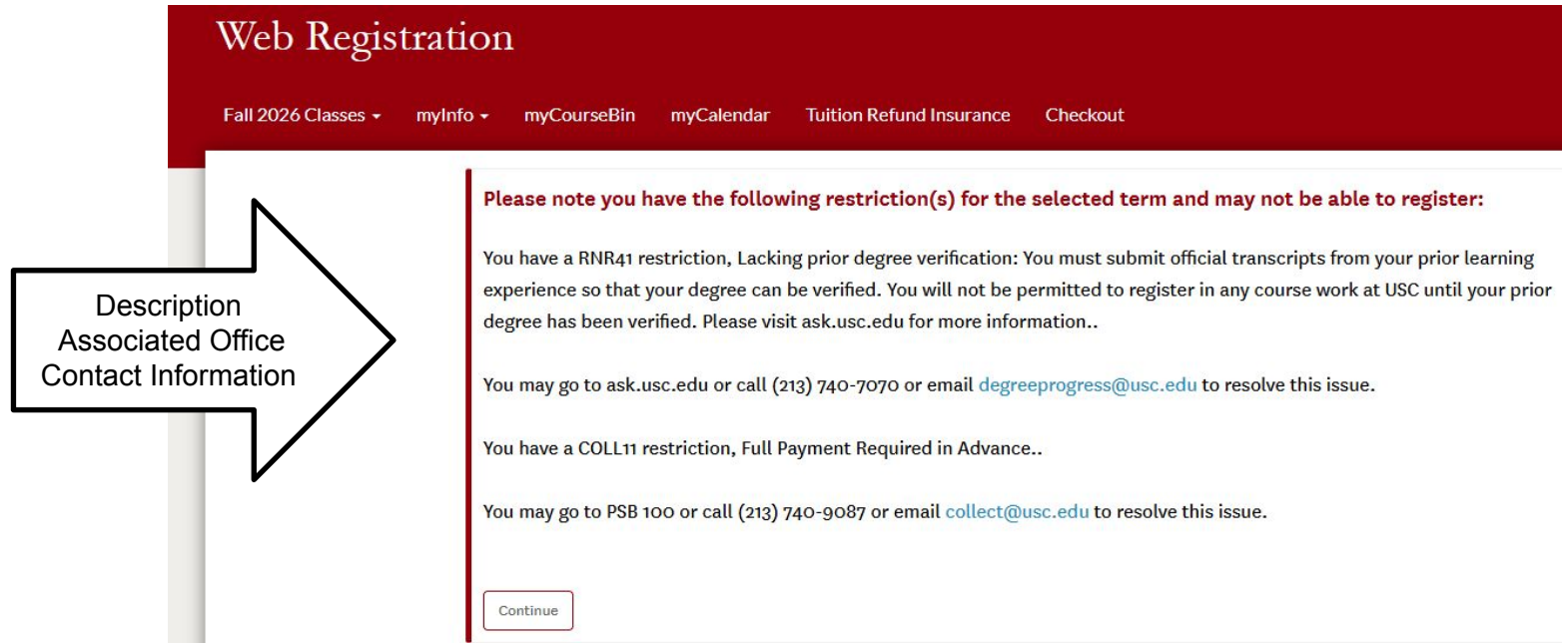
Process for Prerequisite Waiver:

- Submit your request via myViterbi via the Pre-Requisite Waiver Request Manager link. (Email requests will not be accepted.)

- If you are taking courses outside of the ECE department, please note that each department may have its own unique process. Visit their department website for more information.

Account Holds

When logging into Web Registration, holds will be listed at the beginning before continuing to class offerings.



The screenshot shows the USC Web Registration interface. At the top is a dark red navigation bar with the text "Web Registration" in white. Below this bar are several menu items: "Fall 2026 Classes", "myInfo", "myCourseBin", "myCalendar", "Tuition Refund Insurance", and "Checkout". The main content area is white and contains a message about account holds. A large white arrow with a black outline points from the left towards the message. The arrow contains the text "Description Associated Office Contact Information". The message itself is enclosed in a thin red border and contains the following text: "Please note you have the following restriction(s) for the selected term and may not be able to register:" followed by three paragraphs of text describing different types of holds (RNR41, COLL11, and PSB 100) and their resolution steps. At the bottom of the message is a "Continue" button.

Web Registration

Fall 2026 Classes ▾ myInfo ▾ myCourseBin myCalendar Tuition Refund Insurance Checkout

Please note you have the following restriction(s) for the selected term and may not be able to register:

You have a RNR41 restriction, Lacking prior degree verification: You must submit official transcripts from your prior learning experience so that your degree can be verified. You will not be permitted to register in any course work at USC until your prior degree has been verified. Please visit ask.usc.edu for more information..

You may go to ask.usc.edu or call (213) 740-7070 or email degreeprogress@usc.edu to resolve this issue.

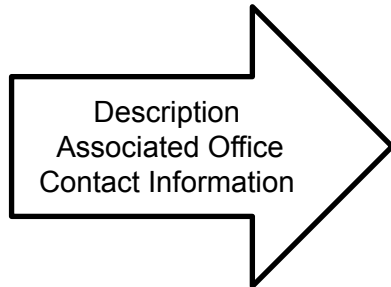
You have a COLL11 restriction, Full Payment Required in Advance..

You may go to PSB 100 or call (213) 740-9087 or email collect@usc.edu to resolve this issue.

Continue

Account Holds

Holds can also be found on
Experience USC > My
Academics > Restrictions



My Academics

Get informed on your student records and resources

My Fall 2024 Registered Courses

Changes made to your registered courses in other systems may take some time to reflect in Experience USC.

UTC/CR	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TBA
10 am		DES 303 3042J, Lecture Online	BUCO 450 2048J, Lecture Text 202	DES 303 3042J, Lecture Online	BUCO 450 2048J, Lecture Text 202	DES 263 2342J, Lecture Online		CRT 245 3458J, Lecture ATK 225
11 am						DES 263 2342J, Lecture Online		CS 225 3458A, Lab S24 131
12 pm								
1 pm		CS 256 2048J, Lecture HAR 311		CS 256 2048J, Lecture HAR 311				
2 pm			CS 2... 3342J... ATK 2...	CS 4... 3342J... ATK 2...		CS 2... 3342J... ATK 2...	CS 4... 3342J... ATK 2...	

AUGUST
23
MONDAY

My Fall 2024 Registration Appointment Date Begins:
August 23, 2022 at 11:00 AM PST
[Go to Web Registration](#) [View Academic Calendar](#)
[Read Statements of Responsibility](#)

You have 3 activity restrictions for Fall 2024 semester
[View Registration Information](#)

Kara Santos
She / Her / Hers
USC ID: 1804-0914-47
Major/Program: Bachelor of Science,
Expected Graduation: May 2026
1 more active major/program
[Edit Profile](#)

Brightspace
USC's Online teaching and learning
platform for students and faculty.
[Visit Brightspace](#)

Advise USC
Visit Advise USC to schedule advisor
appointments and create course plans.
[Access Advise USC](#)

Common Account Holds

Hold	Description	How to Address Hold
STU 50	Restricts registration and USCard application (prevents registration)	Complete <u>Immigration Status Verification (ISV)</u> with OIS upon arrival in the U.S.
ADM 40 RNR 40	Degree Verification (allows registration)	Verify previous degree(s) with <u>USC Office of Degree Progress</u> . Deadline for all degree verifications is by the end of you first semester.
ADM 20	Conditional Admission (allows registration)	See your Admission Letter for any specific conditions.

D-clearance

- A “D” listed after the section number indicates that D-clearance (permission) is required before you can register for the course.
- A section number without a “D” does not require clearance, so you can register immediately.

AME 502 - Modern Topics in Aerospace Design

3.0 Units | Available Seats: 41

Current topics in Aerospace Engineering are addressed by a number of industry panelists. Students, under panelists' supervision and guidance, complete independent research reports and briefings. Recommended preparation: AME 261, AME 441, AME 481 or equivalents. Genuine interest in design of flight vehicles. Open only to Senior, Master, and Doctoral students.

Restrictions: This course is open to the following class levels: Doctoral Student, Master Student and Senior. This course is open to the following school: Andrew and Erna Viterbi School of Engineering.

SECTION	UNITS	TYPE	SCHEDULE	LOCATION	INSTRUCTORS	SYLLABUS	REGISTERED	DETAILS
28970 D	3.0	Lecture	Fri, 12:00-2:30 pm	Sign In to View	Jayanth Kudva	Not Available	4 / 30	View More
28860	3.0	Lecture	Fri, 12:00-2:30 pm	Sign In to View	Jayanth Kudva	Not Available	5 / 20	View More

Requesting D-clearance

D-clearance for Viterbi courses is done through myViterbi.

- Outside of Viterbi: visit department website for directions

On-Campus Section	For OC and DEN@Viterbi students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request d-clearance through MyViterbi>> D-clearance Request Manager >> Select Department• Processing timeline varies by Department.
DEN@Viterbi Section	DEN students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some classes may require d-clearance. More information to come• Request d-clearance through MyViterbi>> D-clearance Request Manager>> DEN@Viterbi D-clearance Request• This is only visible to DEN@Viterbi students• Processing timeline is 3-4 business days.

Requesting D-clearance: MyViterbi

- Advisement Appointment System
- Apply for an hourly position to support a class (eg. Grader, etc..)
- **D-Clearance Request Manager**
- DEN Petition Request Form
- Directed Research
- Graduate Academic Verification Form for Program Extension
- Instructional Software Distribution
- Internship Course Request Form
- Learning Environment Services Manager
- Optional Practical Training Graduation Verification Form
- Out of Sequence
- Placement Exam Registration (EE)
- Pre-Req Waiver Request Manager
- Progressive Degree Program
- Purchase Order Request Tool (PORT)
- Secure Document Uploader
- Temporary Removal of Verification of Degree Holds
- VASE Program Certificates
- Viterbi Service Desk
- Withdrawal Request
- Women in Engineering Mentorship

Requesting D-clearance: On-Campus

To request D-Clearance for an **On-Campus section**, select the department from the links below:

- [Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering](#)
- [Civil & Environmental Engineering](#)
- [Computer Science and Data Science](#)
- [Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering](#)
- [Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering](#)
- [The Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science](#)

Note: If the department you wish to request D-Clearance from is not listed above that means this system is not active for those classes at this time. Please contact your student advisor to find out when D-Clearances will be available for that department. D-Clearance requests for courses outside of Viterbi are managed by that department. Please contact them directly.

Requesting D-clearance: DEN@Viterbi

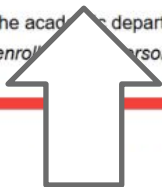
D-Clearance Request Manager

DEN@Viterbi D-Clearance:

To request D-Clearance for a DEN@Viterbi section, click on the **DEN@Viterbi D-Clearance Request** link below.
The link will list all DEN@viterbi course sections for all academic departments.

DEN@Viterbi D-Clearance Request

****Important:** The academic department links below are intended solely to request D-Clearance for on-campus sections.
Students who enroll in an in-person section must adhere to the in-person course instructions, policies, and requirements.



Click **highlighted** link

Registration Checklist

Be sure to resolve all registration check list items, as each may impact registration. Resolving or submitting a request for one does not mean it solves all.

Prerequisites	A class that must be completed before enrolling in another course.
Department clearance	Classes with a "D" next to the section number placed by department.
Holds	Restrictions that need to get resolved. Some prevent registration.
Registration Permit	The earliest date and time you can access Web Registration to register for the next term.



04

Contacting Your Advisor



.....



ECE Advising



ece.studentservices@usc.edu or your assigned advisor. *Always include your USCID*



<https://minghsieh.ece.usc.edu>



Virtual Drop-In Hours:

Wednesdays (June 24 – August 19)
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT



Hughes Aircraft Electrical Engineering Building
(EEB) Room 102

VSAS Advising

- Email: vasems@usc.edu
- DEN inquiries: vaseden@usc.edu
- Website: <https://viterbigrad.usc.edu/>
- Virtual Drop-In Hours:
Mondays (June 22 – August 19)
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM PT
- Olin Hall of Engineering (OHE)
Room 106

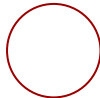
Email Communication

When sending an email, please include detailed information about your inquiry to avoid delays.

Please include in all communication:

- **From USC Email**
- Name
- USC ID
- Course section numbers
- Subject line with issue/topic
- Allow 2-3 business days for a response

 We encourage respectful and professional communication when interacting with staff and faculty members.

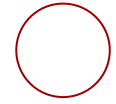
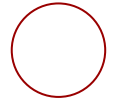


05

Next Steps & Important Dates



.....



Next Steps and Important Dates

Next Steps

- Review New Student Website
- Activate myViterbi (1-2 days)
- Submit d-clearance requests
- Register for Fall 2026 courses
- Make tuition and fees payment by August 21st to avoid a late fee.

Important Dates

- International Student Session- July 6 (Zoom)
- On-Campus Student Orientation
 - Part 1- August 17 (online)
 - Part 2- August 18 (in-person)
- DEN@Viterbi Orientation
 - Part 1- July 22nd
 - [ECE] Part 2- July 23rd
- Last day to register and settle without a late fee - August 21
- Fall semester classes begin - August 24th
- Last day to drop a course with tuition refund - September 11

Click [here](#) for website with this information!!

USC Viterbi School of Engineering NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST(M.S.)

Review the checklists below, as each item may have its own deadline.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- Activate your USC email and NetID. *This is where you'll receive all future emails from USC.* [LINK](#)
- Attend Department Academic Webinar. *Get all the info you need to register for courses!* [LINK](#)
- Access ExperienceUSC (access available after June 3) [LINK](#)
- Review the [Schedule](#) of Classes and process to register. [LINK](#)
- Review immunizations and screening requirements. [LINK](#)
- Register for the Viterbi Orientation / New Student Welcome [LINK](#)
- Research housing options with USC and non-USC Housing [LINK](#)
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: [LINK](#)
 - Review USC policies around the International Student Exam (ISE) or Teaching Assistant Exam (ITA). If preferred, you can take the TOEFL or IELTS again to avoid taking the ISE.
 - Bring all original diplomas and transcripts to prepare for degree verification.
 - Attend the [International Students Information Session](#) July 6 at 9:00 AM (PST)

AFTER YOU ARRIVE

- Get your USC ID Card [LINK](#)
- Attend Orientation Part I (Online) August 17, 2026 [LINK](#)
- Attend Orientation Part II (On Campus) August 18, 2026 [LINK](#)
- Waive USC insurance or add dental coverage (optional) [LINK](#)
- Settle your tuition through USCe.pay [LINK](#)
- Complete Degree Verification (if applicable) [LINK](#)
- Complete Mandatory Training for Graduate Students [LINK](#)
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: [LINK](#)
 - Complete Immigration Status Verification (ISV)
 - Review the [schedule](#) of classes and the process to register
 - Take the ISE or ITA exam (if applicable)

USC Viterbi School of Engineering NEW STUDENT TIMELINE (M.S.)

To ensure a successful transition to USC Viterbi, we have highlighted these important resources and activities.

- ASAP** **USC EMAIL**
 - Make sure to activate your USC email and [NetID](#).
 - The Viterbi School and academic department will communicate important information with you via your USC e-mail only.
- JUNE 2026** **MS ACADEMIC WEBINARS**
 - The Academic Webinar is an online information session for Master's students where advisors will introduce the department and give you all the information you need to register for courses. Invitation coming soon via your USC email.
- JUNE 2026** **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**
 - The Viterbi Graduate Mentorship Program pairs up new students with a continuing student mentor in the same academic department to help with a smooth transition to USC. Invitation coming soon via your USC email.
- JUNE-JULY 2026** **NEW STUDENT HOT TOPIC VIDEOS**
 - A series of videos focusing on various transition topics for incoming students. Topics include: *Academic Advisement, Course Registration, English Proficiency, Career Connections, and Student Engagement.*
- JULY 2026** **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SESSION**
 - This session will provide pre-arrival guidance, an overview of enrollment requirements, and an overview of the different academic verifications Viterbi provides for its international students throughout their program.
- AUGUST 2026** **ORIENTATION PART I**
 - A mandatory online immersion experience to introduce key resources and explain immigration policies for international students.
 - Opportunities for you to start building your network at Viterbi.
- AUGUST 2026** **ORIENTATION PART II**
 - A mandatory in-person experience to get familiar with campus resources and engage with Viterbi faculty, advisors, and students.

06

Resources



Websites, Portals, and Tools

Experience USC - My Academics

- Holds
- STARS Report
- Grade Report

Experience USC -Advise USC

- Advising Appointments
- Create a case
- Advising Notes

WebReg

- Course Bin
- Register for classes
- Restrictions
- Class availability

myViterbi

- D-clearance
- Leave of Absence
- Application to Graduate

Schedule of Classes

- Tuition rates
- Semester deadlines
- Syllabi
- Class availability

Department Website

- Requirements
- Information about processes
- Registration resources

07

FAQs



.....



Research



Master's thesis

A Master's thesis is not required. Students interested in pursuing a thesis should speak with their advisor.



590 courses



Students have the option to take Directed Research (590 courses) and work under a faculty member to deliver results for a grade

Other Ways to Get Involved

Volunteering in research labs, projects, or student organizations connected to departments can expand your skills



ECE Academic Questions

- **Can I transfer graduate units into my program?**

- Yes, possible to transfer in up to 4 units (400 level or above) if you previously took a class elsewhere that was not used towards a degree. Please contact your advisor to discuss the transfer credit approval process further.

- **What courses should I take in the first semester?**

- Please refer to the Advisement and Registration email. List of first term courses attached is also on the ECE website under the tab Student Resources>Master of Science>Documents

- **What if my courses have a 200-300 level pre-req?**

- Please refer to the Advisement and Registration email. The Prerequisite Waiver Request form is located in MyViterbi. Please allow our office two business days to process the request. You will be notified by email once completely processed. Please do not send email to assigned advisor.

ECE Academic Questions

- **How long will it take me to finish my degree?**

Depends...but likely 2yrs (2.5 to 3.5 years if DEN) - 5 years is time limit

- **Do I have to be enrolled in each semester?**

Every fall and spring, yes for continuous enrollment. Need to file a Leave of Absence if not enrolled during fall or spring semester.

- **Do I have to do a thesis or conduct research?**

No, not required. 99% of all MS students in ECE do NOT do thesis.

- **Can I take a class for Pass/No Pass?**

No, all classes for your degree must be taken for a letter grade.

ECE Academic Questions

- **Is there a minimum or maximum course unit requirement for each semester?**

- International students if in the US, must enroll in 8 units each semester to maintain visa status – if in less than 8 units, must file an RCL (ONLY allowed in 1st and LAST terms). 8 units is considered full-time for all MS graduate students. Domestic students can choose to take more than 8 or fewer units. If you have financial aid or loans – may need to be in 8 units to qualify.

- **Can I take electives from other departments?**

- Yes, but only after the first semester. An ECE Special Request (submit on MyViterbi) must be approved ahead of time, most degree programs will allow a max of up to 2 non-EE classes.

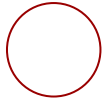
ECE Academic Questions

- **Can I change my program to another one within ECE?**

- Yes, changing into MSECE is easiest (most flexible program). Some programs like MSFINE, MSECE-MLDS, MSQIS require that you take specific courses and have a certain GPA in order to change majors.

- **Do you have virtual advising hours? How can I contact you?**

- We will be offering virtual drop-in hours for new students on Wednesdays 10am-12pm PST (zoom link on ECE homepage) between June 24 – August 19. You can also email your assigned advisor directly. In person is always welcome! Come visit us in EEB 102.



Q&A

