

# Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

## ENCS 8011 Doctoral Seminar

Approved at the Department Council Meeting on April 12, 2024

### 1. Calendar Description

The PhD Seminar (2 credits) is designed to train students to communicate the results of their research projects to the community and participate in research discussions. The seminar course is taken when students have sufficiently progressed into their research, normally after 6 (12 for part-time students) months of being admitted to candidacy, which is usually after 24 (48 for part-time students) months of residency, and must be completed before the submission of the thesis. The student's evaluation, reflected by either a pass or fail grade, is based upon attendance in all seminars, a report on the student's thesis research under the direction of the thesis supervisor(s), and a presentation.

**Pre-requisite:** ENCS 8511 Doctoral Research Proposal

**Note:** Students may register in the PhD seminar course four months after becoming a PhD candidate (i.e., passing the doctoral research proposal exam).

### 2. Report

The student should prepare a written report with the following main objectives:

- i. Introducing the research problem and justifying any potential deviation from the research goals stated in the proposal. The introduction should also include a brief, but more recent, literature survey.
- ii. Presenting the progress made on the research problem since the proposal. The report should contain results as well as the methodology leading to them.
- iii. Briefly discussing the remaining work and giving an estimate of the time needed for the completion of the work.
- iv. Concluding remarks

### 3. Presentation

Each scheduled seminar will consist of two parts: (i) the student's presentation (max 25 minutes) and (ii) questions and answers.

The student, in consultation with his/her supervisor, will email the seminar coordinator to choose the time slot of presentation. The presentation will be scheduled on a first come and first served basis. The supervisor and at least one additional examiner (normally internal examiner) must be present during the seminar. The student should send a soft copy of the seminar report in PDF file by email to all the examiners and the coordinator two weeks before the presentation. Each presentation and the Q/A session will be chaired by the respective thesis supervisor. All registered students are strongly encouraged to ask questions.

### 4. Evaluation

The Ph.D. seminar course is graded as Pass or Fail. Following the presentation of a seminar, the examiners will make a Pass or Fail decision based on the amount of progress and the quality of the research. The decision will also take into consideration the quality of the written report and the oral presentation as well as the student's responses to the questions. If the committee reaches a Fail decision, then the student will be given a second chance after an appropriate period of time.