

Frequently Asked Questions on the EE Curriculum

1. What courses can be used as HSS electives?

The dean's office publishes a list of courses that can and cannot be used to meet this requirement. This list can be found in this handbook.

2. Is there anything else that we need to be aware of in choosing an HSS elective?

Students cannot take language courses in their native language for HSS electives. Native language was designated on their application to UVA.

3. Are unrestricted electives completely unrestricted?

Not really. By definition, an unrestricted elective may be any graded course in the University except mathematics courses below MATH 131 (or APMA 109) and any other courses that substantially duplicate courses offered for the degree.

4. I have to take APMA 109. Can I use it for something?

Yes. You can use it as an unrestricted elective (three credits).

5. What are the choices for the science elective?

There are 6 choices: BIOL201, BIOL202, CHEM152, ECE200, MSE209 and PHYS252,

6. What courses are counted as Tech Electives?

A technical elective is defined as a course in engineering, mathematics, or science (intended for science majors) at the 200 level or above. Of the four technical electives, two must be at the 300 level or above. Any course appearing on the approved list of HSS electives may not be used as a technical elective.

7. Can I take COMM classes as Tech electives?

COMM classes may be used as unrestricted electives, not as technical electives.

8. Can I take ASTR 342 as a Technical Elective?

No. ASTR 342 is not intended for science majors.

9. Are we required to sign up for the ECE407 MDE course?

Yes. But, you have the option to sign up either ECE407-01 (the main section) or ECE407-02, ECE407-03 etc, as long as they satisfy the MDE criteria approved by the faculty. The MDE criteria can be found in this handbook. (See also question # 13.)

10. What requirements can ECE 200 be used to fulfill?

ECE200 can be used as a science elective, a tech elective or an unrestricted elective. It is not an ECE elective.

11. I heard that some physics and MSE courses can be used to satisfy ECE electives requirement. Is that true?

Yes. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee recommend to develop ECE classes that are cross listed with MSE 567 (Optical and Magnetic Properties of Material), PHYS 531 (Optics) and PHYS 532 (Fundamentals of Photonics). Before such ECE courses are developed, EE students may use these MSE and Physics courses as ECE electives.

12. Can I deviate from the curriculum a little bit?

Deviation from the curriculum requires the approval of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. You must petition to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for any deviation. Petition should be discussed with your adviser, and should be sent by email to Professor Lin (zl5y@virginia.edu).

13. Can I use ENGR 401 and ENGR 402 as ECE electives?

If you want to use ENGR 401/402 to fulfill the MDE requirement, you may petition to use ENGR 401 as an ECE elective. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will approve the petition based on the actual Electrical Engineering contents of your project. ENGR 402 cannot be used as an ECE elective.

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