1.THG / Thesis Guidelines

The MEng thesis is the result of an individual research project conducted by each student in the program in close collaboration with their faculty thesis supervisor. Thesis research begins immediately upon arrival at MIT, and concludes in May with the submission of the signed thesis document. The official MIT deadline for thesis submission is May 10, 2024.

Research Requirement and 1.THG

1.THG is a subject associated with a program of research leading to the writing of a graduate thesis. Research plays an integral role in the graduate degree, and research effort is tracked through enrollment in 1.THG. This subject is associated with the laboratory, field, computational, or theoretical research undertaken by each student working with a faculty supervisor in CEE at MIT.

Graduate students are required to register for 1.THG every semester (including IAP), and as part of this, meet with their supervisors on a regular basis. MEng students are required to register for 24 units of 1.THG during the program (we recommend 10 units in fall and spring and 4 units over IAP) and should meet with their supervisors on a weekly basis.

IAP is considered its own term and is not a vacation period. This time should be spent on research. Students should plan to register for 4 units of 1.THG over IAP.

The general process and timeline for conducting and writing the MEng thesis is as follows:

September-October 2023
Thesis topic exploration, preliminary literature review, meetings with supervisor and topic refinement.

November-December 2023
Thesis literature review completed, research question and methodology established, preliminary research results gathered, thesis outline started.

January-February 2024
Research methodology(ies) carried out, including numerical and computational work, physical experiments, etc. Students are expected to be present on campus during IAP conducting research.
March 2024
Final research results and analysis/interpretation completed, writing on all chapters initiated.

April-May 2024
Thesis writing, revising, editing, and submission. Final poster presentation.

Students will work closely with their thesis supervisors throughout all steps of the thesis process. As part of the 24 1.THG units completed in the program, students will have milestones, deadlines, and presentations to ensure steady progress and to share thesis research and results with their peers and supervisors.

A detailed schedule for the 2023-2024 academic year is given below.

Key 1.THG Dates and Assignments, Fall 2023

**Friday, September 8, 2023, 12 pm, 1-131**
This information session will review one of our departmental resources, the CEE Communications Lab. The Communications Lab is here to help you with all of your research communication needs, resumes, cover letters, etc.

**Friday, September 8, 2023, 6 pm, Catalyst Restaurant**
Join us for a group social outing to Catalyst. Get to know each other and enjoy a good meal!

**Monday, September 11, 2023, 12 pm, 1-131**
This information session will provide an overview of MIT’s library systems. You’ll learn how to navigate the thesis archives (Dspace) to view past MEng theses, search the inventory system, and request books.

**Friday, September 15, 2023**
Academic Program Form due to cee-apo@mit.edu. This form should include your intended program of study and be signed off by your advisor.

**Thursday, September 28, 2023, 3-4:30 pm, 48-316**
Literature Review Workshop with the CEE CommLab

**Friday, October 13, 2023**
Preliminary literature review due
Select and annotate three scholarly publications representative of your interests and possible focus of the MEng thesis. A written paragraph devoted to each publication should summarize
the completed research and propose future work that could be done toward the thesis. This should be submitted to your advisor with a copy to cee-apo@mit.edu.

Friday, October 20, 2023
Thesis proposal signed by supervisor due to cee-apo@mit.edu
Prepare a one-page abstract proposing research for the MEng thesis. The abstract should introduce the topic, outline research methodology, and summarize the goals of the work. The thesis supervisor must also sign the cover sheet to indicate their agreement in supervising the proposed topic.

Submit signed copy of thesis proposal electronically, using form on CEE.MIT.EDU/RESOURCES

Friday, November 3, 2023, 3pm-5pm, 48-316
Thesis progress presentations by each student
Prepare a 6-minute presentation using PowerPoint or similar software to introduce your research topic, review critical existing research in the same area, identify the original research question, outline the proposed methodology, anticipate results, and conclude with the impact of the work. The goal is to share your research plans with each other as well as the wider department community; advisors and research groups will be invited to attend. Feedback on both the content and clarity of the presentation will be provided by CEE advisors and postdocs.

Friday, December 8, 2023
Thesis outline due to supervisor (copy cee-apo@mit.edu)
Full thesis draft in outline form, including the five standard chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. Literature Review, 3. Methodology, 4. Results, 5. Conclusions. The first three chapters should be more filled out, including text and images, while the later chapters can include placeholders for anticipated content.

Key 1.THG Dates and Assignments, Spring 2024

Friday, February 2, 2024, 3-5pm,
Thesis progress presentations by each student
Prepare a 5-minute presentation using PowerPoint or similar software to give updates on your thesis research, following a similar format to the November presentation (with more focus on methodology and results).

Mid-February 2024, location TBD
CEE Research Day
MEng students are encouraged to participate in the annual CEE Research Day. Get a jump start on your poster and enter it in the poster session for a chance to win cash prizes.
Friday, March 15, 2024
Progress thesis draft due to supervisor (copy cee-apo@mit.edu)
Expansion on thesis draft outline from December, including substantial updates to Literature Review, Methodology, and Results. Your supervisor will give comments and feedback in person and/or in writing on your draft.

Friday, April 12, 2024
Full thesis draft due to supervisor (copy cee-apo@mit.edu)
Near-final thesis draft with all chapters written, and results completed, analyzed, and interpreted. This deadline is critical to receive final feedback from your supervisor.

Poster draft due to supervisor (copy cee-apo@mit.edu)
Outline of poster content planned for final presentations in mid-May

Friday, April 26, 2024
Final thesis draft due to supervisor (copy cee-apo@mit.edu)
Finalized thesis that has been copy-edited, formatted according to MIT Guidelines (https://libraries.mit.edu/distinctive-collections/thesis-specs/), and thoroughly reviewed by the student for legibility, clarity of arguments, and overall quality. This is the final version to be approved by the supervisor prior to printing and submission.

Friday, May 10, 2024
Thesis submission deadline
Poster submission deadline

mid-May 2024, 5-7 pm, location TBD
Present final poster to CEE community at the end of year award ceremony.

May 28-30, 2024
Commencement Activities
Ceremony dates, times, and locations will be shared following IAP.
Program Requirements & Suggested Subjects

Degree Requirements
Program must include at least 66 subject units of graduate level credit and 24 units of Thesis (1.THG).

- Four approved graduate subjects listed in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, totaling at least 48 units.
  - You must select three from the list below:
    - 1.65 Atmospheric Boundary Layer Flows and Wind Energy (12 units, Fall)
    - 1.670 Energy Systems for Climate Change Mitigation (12 units, Fall)
    - 1.771 Global Change Science (12 units, Fall)
    - 1.811 Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Prevention and Control (12 units, Spring)
    - 1.845 Introduction to the terrestrial carbon cycle and ecosystem ecology (12 units, Spring)
    - 1.861 Physics of Renewable Energy Systems and Computational Analysis (12 units, Spring)
    - 1.TBD Environmental Chemistry (12 units, Spring)

- Two elective subjects, totaling at least 18 units
- MEng Thesis (1.THG), equivalent to 24 units

Suggested Elective Subjects, Fall 2023
1.286 Urban Energy Systems and Policy (12 units)
1.303 Infrastructure Design for Climate change (6 units)
1.61 Transport Processes in the Environment (12 units)
1.69 Introduction to Coastal Engineering (12 units)
1.818 Sustainable Energy (12 units)
1.83 Environmental Organic Chemistry (12 units)
1.834 Exploring Sustainability at Different Scales (12 units)
1.84 Atmospheric Chemistry (12 units)
1.87 Microbial Genetics and Evolution (12 units)
11.601 Theory and Practice of Environmental Planning (12 units)
12.842 Climate Science (12 units)
12.860 Climate Variability and Diagnostics (12 units)
12.885 Science, Politics, and Environmental Policy (9 units)
Suggested Elective Subjects, Spring 2024
1.001 Engineering Computation and Data Science (12 units)
1.147 Startup Sustainable Tech (12 units)
1.200 Transportation: Foundations and Methods (12 units)
1.631 Fluids and Diseases (12 units)
1.713 Land-Atmosphere Interactions (12 units)
1.72 Groundwater Hydrology (12 units)
1.XXX Microbial Biogeochemistry (12 units)
1.873 Ecological Dynamics and Modeling (12 units)
1.881 Genomics and Evolution of Infectious Disease (12 units)
12.849 Mechanisms and Models of the Global Carbon Cycle (12 units)

Submitting your subject registration

After you meet with your advisor to discuss your fall schedule, you will need to follow these steps to submit your finalized registration:

1. student enters their subject selection at https://registration.mit.edu/
2. the advisor approves the subject selection
3. the student submits the approved registration