EEC 200 – Navigating Graduate School
1 unit – Fall Quarter 2025

Objective: The overarching goal of this seminar-style course is to orient the first-year ECEGP graduate students in: (i) finding a major advisor, constructing a degree plan, and strategy to prepare for the preliminary and qualifying exams; (ii) developing effective time-management and study skills while maintaining a good work-life balance; and (iii) learning the essentials of research integrity/ethics, intellectual property and technology transfer, as well as literature search and scientific communication.

Class Times/Location: Friday 11:00AM-11:50PM; Wellman Hall, Room 216

Prerequisite: First-year ECEGP graduate student, ECEGP transfer student, or instructor approval

Instructor: Prof. Erkin Şeker (eseker@ucdavis.edu)

Graduate Program Chair: Prof. Anh-Vu Pham (ahpham@ucdavis.edu)

MS Program Director: Prof. Venkatesh Akella (akella@ucdavis.edu); Advising appointments available via https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/

Graduate Program Advisor: Prof. Weijian Yang (wejyang@ucdavis.edu); Advising appointments available via https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/

Graduate Program Coordinator: Michelle Theresa Walker (mtwalker@ucdavis.edu); Advising appointments available via https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/

Grading: The course will be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. The grading will be based on attendance in lectures and timely submission of assignments.

Assignments: There will be several assignments designed to assist the students in relating the content to themselves and custom goals/needs. All assignment-related transactions (e.g., assignment submission, grading) will be conducted via Canvas.

Attendance & Late Submission Policy: In-person attendance in lectures is strongly encourages to get the most out of this course through meeting peers in the program and engaging in discussion. One late assignment (up to 48 hours after deadline) will be allowed. Any assignment later than 48 hours will receive an unsatisfactory grade. More than two unsatisfactory grades will lead to an unsatisfactory overall course grade.

Textbooks: Recommended material and exercises will be provided by the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Professional integrity is an important aspect of all engineering disciplines and understanding the material in these courses is integral to becoming a proficient and productive engineer. As such, it is imperative that you spend the time and effort to fully understand the material. Please read the UC Davis "Code of Academic Conduct" at participate.ucdavis.edu .

Frequently Asked Questions - Student Resources: https://ebeler.faculty.ucdavis.edu/resources/faq-student-resources/

Course Content:

Week 1 (9/26)
Introduction, how to find a major professor, mentorship tips, courses (Prof. Erkin Şeker)

Week 2 (10/3) **[ZOOM]**
Time management, study skills, work-life balance (Dr. Tori White, Office of Educational Opportunity and Enrichment Services)

Week 3 (10/10) **[ZOOM]**
Career development, internships, etc. (Rosette Simityan, Internship and Career Center)

Week 4 (10/17)
Short faculty talks moderated by Prof. Erkin Şeker
Profs. Marina Radulaski, Gene Gurkoff, Jonathan Calvert, Shamim Ahamed

Week 5 (10/24)
Short faculty talks moderated by Prof. Erkin Şeker
Profs. Hyoyoung Jeon, Yubei Chen, Erkin Şeker

Week 6 (10/31)
Mid-quarter check-in (Michelle Walker, ECE Graduate Program Coordinator)

Week 7 (11/7)
Intellectual property & technology transfer (Michael Mueller, InnovationAccess, Office of Research)

Week 8 (11/14)
AI tools for graduate-level research (Dr. Emily Atkinson, UC Davis Library)

Week 9 (11/21)
Scientific communication (Dr. Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, UC Davis Writing Center)

Week 10 (12/5)
Open discussion on lessons learned from the first quarter and plan for next quarter and beyond (Prof. Erkin Şeker)

Please note that there is no lecture on November 28 (Thanksgiving Holiday).