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 (REMOTE) – Lectures will be recorded

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

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

MS Program Director: Prof. Sebastian Gomez-Diaz (jsgomez@ucdavis.edu); Advising appointments available via https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/

Graduate Program Advisor: Prof. Omeed Momeni (omomeni@ucdavis.edu); Advising appointments available via https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/

Graduate Program Coordinator: Sacksith Ekkaphanh (sekkaphanh@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 remote 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: If you are unable to attend the synchronous lectures during the scheduled class time, please contact the instructor for permission during the first week of instruction. Absence from a maximum of two classes will be permitted with prior notification to the course instructor via email. 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 (10/2)**
Introduction, how to find a major professor, mentorship tips, courses, remote learning (Prof. Erkin Şeker)

**Week 2 (10/9)**
Career development, internships, etc. (Dr. Bethany Hopkins, Internship and Career Center)

**Week 3 (10/16)**
Time management, study skills, work-life balance (Dr. Tori White, Office of Educational Opportunity and Enrichment Services)

**Week 4 (10/23)**
Short faculty talks moderated by Prof. Erkin Şeker
Profs. Sebastian Gomez-Diaz, Neville Luhmann, Venkatesh Akella, Jerry Woodall, Stavros Vougioukas, Rajeevan Amirtharajah

**Week 5 (10/30)**
Short faculty talks moderated by Prof. Erkin Şeker
Profs. Weijian Yang, John Owens, Marina Radulaski, Billy Putnam, Josh Hihath, Erkin Seker

**Week 6 (11/6)**
Scientific communication with an emphasis on writing (Dr. Aditi Risbud Bartl, College of Engineering)

**Week 7 (11/13)**
Research integrity & ethics (Dr. David Blancha, GradPathways Institute for Professional Development)

**Week 8 (11/20)**
Intellectual property & technology transfer (Dr. Nancy Rashid, InnovationAccess, Office of Research)

**Week 9 (12/4)**
Scientific communication with an emphasis on presenting (Dr. Aditi Risbud Bartl, College of Engineering)

**Week 10 (12/11)**
Open discussion on lessons learned from the first quarter and plan for next quarter and beyond (Prof. Erkin Şeker)