

**EEC 200 – Navigating Graduate School  
1 unit – Fall Quarter 2024**

**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 6

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

**Instructor:** Prof. Erkin Şeker ([eseker@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eseker@ucdavis.edu))

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

**MS Program Director:** Prof. Sebastian Gomez-Diaz ([jsgomez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jsgomez@ucdavis.edu)); Advising appointments available via <https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/>

**Graduate Program Advisor:** Prof. Weijian Yang ([weijyang@ucdavis.edu](mailto:weijyang@ucdavis.edu)); Advising appointments available via <https://appointments.ucdavis.edu/>

**Graduate Program Coordinator:** Michelle Theresa Walker ([mtwalker@ucdavis.edu](mailto: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:** 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](https://participate.ucdavis.edu) .

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

## **Course Content:**

### Week 1 (9/27)

Orientation on how to fill out the program of study (Prof. Sebastian Gomez-Diaz, Prof. Anh-Vu Pham, Prof. Weijian Yang, Michelle Walker)

### Week 2 (10/4)

Introduction, how to find a major professor, mentorship tips, courses (Prof. Erkin Şeker)

### Week 3 (10/11)

Short faculty talks moderated by Prof. Erkin Şeker  
Profs. Emilie Roncali, Katia Vega, Stavros Vougioukas, Iman Soltani

### Week 4 (10/18)

Short faculty talks moderated by Prof. Erkin Şeker  
Profs. Sebastian Gomez-Diaz, Gene Gurkoff, Weijian Yang, Erkin Şeker

### Week 5 (10/25)

Career development, internships, etc. (Elizabeth Storer & Rosette Simityan, Internship and Career Center) **[No in-person lecture; join the Zoom session from the sidebar on Canvas]**

### Week 6 (11/1)

Time management, study skills, work-life balance (Dr. Tori White, Office of Educational Opportunity and Enrichment Services) **[No in-person lecture; join the Zoom session from the sidebar on Canvas]**

### Week 7 (11/8)

Intellectual property & technology transfer (Michael Mueller, InnovationAccess, Office of Research)

### Week 8 (11/15)

Research integrity & ethics (Alaisha Hellman, Research Ethics and Compliance Office)

### Week 9 (11/22)

Scientific communication (Dr. Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, UC Davis Writing Center)

### Week 10 (12/6)

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 29 (Thanksgiving Holiday).**