

Mechanical Engineering Department
Postgraduate Admission Rules
28 October 2024, Revised December 2, 2024

General Graduate School Rules

1. A master's degree will no longer be required for admission to PhD program at KFUPM. Applicants with a four-years Bachelor's degree in **Engineering** are eligible to apply for a PhD admission.
2. Applicants to the PhD program must submit a proof of English proficiency test results, i.e. IELTS, TOFEL or Duolingo.
3. PhD students admitted with a BS degree in **Engineering** must complete a minimum of 10 **regular graduate (500/600) level** courses (30 credit hours).
4. The direct PhD program duration is 5 years.
5. The MS students who graduated from KFUPM (who benefit from the course waiver) will have **3-4** years (i.e. **at least 3 years** to be dedicated for research).
6. A maximum of 8 courses can be waived for the PhD students with an MS degree from KFUPM (with minimum 'B+' grade, neither MX courses, research courses, nor 400-Level courses are considered).
7. An advisor's approval is required for course registration. It is proposed that students under the supervision of their advisor, must submit a degree plan during their first semester.
8. The MS students who have submitted their theses for examination or they are in their 4th semester of the MS degree would not be considered for upgrading their study program to a PhD. However, they can get their MS degree first and then they can be upgraded to PhD if they wish **if they are qualified**.
9. For the MS students who have just submitted their research proposals, they need to submit a new/upgraded dissertation proposal and submit a new degree plan to be qualified and matched with the pursued PhD degree level.

10. All PhD students have to complete their PhD Comprehensive Exam after a maximum of two years from enrolment (i.e. 4 semesters).

General ME Department Rule

1. In order to graduate with a PhD degree, students are required to have at least **Two** Q1/Q2 journal paper published/accepted as the primary author and the papers are part of his PhD Dissertation work and all his PhD Dissertation objective are satisfied as stated in his approved PhD dissertation proposal before they get approval for defending their PhD dissertation.
2. Applicants to the direct PhD program should have a BSc degree in **Engineering** from a top university in their country with a GPA equivalent to **3.75/4** or above.
3. PhD students who complete 10 courses (30 credit hours) with the required minimum GPA of **3.5** but fail to progress in the PhD program (e.g. failing the PhD CE or choosing to withdraw), and who are not currently have an MS degree from KFUPM will have the option to complete an MS thesis to earn a terminal MS degree.

The following rules are suggested for upgrading ME MS to PhD students:

1. The current MS students can be upgraded to PhD using both (GPA of **3.75** and Comprehensive Exam (CE)).
2. New MSc students have to wait 1 semester before they can apply to upgraded to a PhD study. A minimum GPA of **3.75** for the new MS students is required and they This to ensure that they are progressing well in their study and this would give a clear indication on their academic performance.
3. PhD students who complete 10 courses (30 credit hours) with the required minimum GPA of **3.5** but fail to progress in the PhD program (e.g. failing the PhD CE or choosing to withdraw), and who are not currently have an MS degree from KFUPM will have the option to complete an MS thesis to earn a terminal MS degree.

The following rules are suggested for ME PhD students who have MS in ME degree from KFUPM:

1. The PhD students who graduated with an MS degree from KFUPM less than 3 years ago (with a maximum of **5** semesters after graduation), can get **up to 8** courses waived from their MS degrees (with 'B+' grade, neither MX courses, research courses, nor 400-Level courses are considered).

2. The structure of the degree plan for the PhD students, who granted **up to 8** waived courses from their MS degree, **should not include any directed research course (e.g. ME 701 or ME 702)** and it is to be checked by the PhD advisor and the assigned committee for that PhD student.

The following rules are suggested for ME PhD students who have MS degree from different departments/universities:

1. The PhD students who graduated from different departments/universities can get an equivalent of **up to 4** courses waived from their MS degrees (with 'B+' grade, with neither MX courses, nor research courses are considered).
2. The PhD students who graduated with an MS degree from different departments/universities **3 years ago or more** are not eligible to apply for waiving any course from their MSc degree.
3. The structure of the degree plan for the PhD students, who granted **up to 4** waived courses from their MS degree, **should not include any directed research course (e.g. ME 701 or ME 702)** and it is to be checked by the PhD advisor and the assigned committee for that PhD student.