Certificate Programs in Power & Energy Systems

About the Program

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) of the University of Houston offers two Graduate Certificate programs in Power and Energy Systems.

1. Power Electronics and Renewable Energy Technologies: This program focuses on power electronics, electric machines, adjustable drive systems, and renewable energy technologies.

2. Power Systems and Smart Grid: This program focuses on the advanced courses related to power systems, smart grid, and power system protection.

The courses offered are relevant to the industries such as oil and gas, power industries, utilities, and renewable energy. The program provides advanced instruction to give individuals the level of technical and business expertise needed to meet the increased industry demand for highly skilled professionals. The time to complete each certificate will be one year.

The courses will be taught by the ECE power faculty and industry experts located in Houston. To provide the most flexibility for working professionals, all courses of the certification programs will be offered in the evenings as well as online.

University of Houston and Energy

University of Houston is the “Energy University” in Energy capital of the world. In addition, Houston has a large base of power and energy industries that need talented engineers to meet their growing demands for performing critical electric energy related tasks. The programs directly support the uniquely diverse industrial and technological environment of the greater Houston area, which is involved in electrical power generation, consumption, expansion, conversion, and manufacturing. The programs were developed at the request of industry with participation from a significant number of prominent electrical industry representatives. The courses offered are designed to concentrate on global industrial workplace and market applications. Each course presents the most current information on topics such as power system engineering, power electronics, smart grid, system operation, and energy management.
Careers in Power and Energy Systems

The students of the PES program will be prepared with both the technical and business expertise required to take on leadership roles within the electrical industry. Career opportunities in power and energy systems are excellent — especially in the city of Houston, the Energy Capital of the World. Alumni of the electrical engineering graduate program work locally and overseas for Halliburton, Schlumberger, CenterPoint Energy and Burns & McDonnell, among many other companies.

Courses and Curriculum

Power Systems and Smart Grid

The Certificate in Power Systems and Smart Grid program will require students to take the following two courses:

- ECE 6326 Power System Analysis
- ECE 6327 Smart Grid Systems

In addition, students must take one of the following courses:

- ECE 6329 Power System Protection, Monitoring and Control
- ECE 6334 High Voltage Electrical Substations Design and Architecture
- ECE 6343 Renewable Energy and Distributed Power Generation

Power Electronics and Renewable Energy Technologies

The Certificate in Power Electronics and Renewable Energy Technologies program will require students to take the following two courses:

- ECE 6305 Power Electronics Converters and Control
- ECE 6343 Renewable Energy and Distributed Power Generation

In addition, students must take one of the following courses:

- ECE 6319 Transformers and Electric Machines
- ECE 6317 Adjustable speed Motor Drive systems
- ECE 6318 Advanced Power Converters and Applications

Courses


ECE 6329 Power System Protection, Monitoring and Control: Protection Basics; Instrument Transformers; Grounding schemes, fault detection and identification; Distribution Protection, Instantaneous overcurrent protection, Time overcurrent protection, Bus protection, Differential Protection; Protection of Transformer, Generator, and Motors. Phase Distance Schemes, Ground Distance Scheme, Supervising element, and Fault Type Selection Logic; Communication Aided Distance Protection; Line Current Differential Protection; Phasor Measurement units; Synchrophasor Vector Processor; Wide area protection.

ECE 6334 High Voltage Electrical Substations Design and Architecture: Industrial substation configuration and composition; cable and busway system design, installation, protection and testing; switching apparatus fundamentals, types, calculation, design, operation, protection; capacitor switching; surge nature, insulation characteristics; system neutrals; arresters, grounding, static lightning protection; insulation coordination; substation planning, design, construction, automation, operation. HVDC and FACTS

ECE 6305 Power Electronics Converters and Control: Power Electronics and applications; Review of power devices including wide band gap devices. Harmonics and power factor in non-sinusoidal systems. AC-DC Phase Controlled Thyristor Converters. DC-DC converters: Buck, Boost, and Buck-Boost converters. Flyback, Cuk, and Full bridge converters. DC-AC Inverters: Square wave, Sinusoidal, Space Vector PWM, and current regulated inverters. Introduction to Active Rectifiers, Resonant Converters, and Multi-level converters.

ECE 6319 Transformers and Electric Machines: Transformers for power supplies and power distribution: Basics and operation, Equivalent circuits. Introduction to torque production in DC and AC motors. Operation, analysis, and dynamics of induction, synchronous, reluctance, and permanent magnet motors; Introduction to finite element analysis of electric machinery. Electromagnetic, structural, and thermal fields in electric machines; National Electric Code (NEC) applied in the industrial environment; standards for motors


Application Requirements

A four-year bachelor's degree in engineering or an electrical engineering related field is required.

The GRE exam is waived for the Certificate Programs in Power and Energy Systems.

The application fee cannot be waived.

TOEFL or IELTS exam is required for applicants who did not graduate from an approved native English-speaking country (University code is 6870). A list of approved countries can be found here.

Applicants for the Certificate Programs in Power & Energy Systems must apply through ApplyWeb and choose a non-degree objective.

Please view the complete application instructions here. The application deadline is July 15.

Additional Information

For additional questions, please email the graduate advisor at ece_grad_admit [at]uh [dot] edu

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
4726 Calhoun Rd, Engineering Bldg. 1, N308
Houston, TX 77204-4005
Phone: 713-743-4400

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