

HONOURS PROGRAM

What is the purpose of the Honours Program?

It is designed for students who wish to pursue postgraduate studies after obtaining the B.Eng. degree, and who look to a career in research and advanced engineering development.

Will I still be able to get into graduate school if I do not follow the Honours program?

Of course. Keep in mind that such programs are offered by very few universities in North America.

Suppose that I do not plan to go to graduate school?

Having an Honours degree certainly will not hurt your chances of employment, and the record shows that many of our Honours graduates have gone on to very impressive careers in industry.

What are its main features?

The technical complementaries, which students take towards the end of their studies, are chosen from among graduate courses. This, together with the contact which these courses provide with graduate students, eases the transition to graduate school.

Honours students in particular have the opportunity to obtain a stronger exposure to engineering design through the Honours Thesis, which they must elect to take in their final year of studies.

By when do I have to decide if I want to follow the Honours Program?

The entry point into the Honours Program is the third semester for CEGEP graduates and the fifth semester for those in the 8-semester program. See the details below.

Can I change my mind about Honours after starting in the program?

Yes, there is always the possibility of transferring from Honours to the Regular programs in Electrical or Computer Engineering.

Is there an Honours Computer Engineering or Software Engineering Program?

Unfortunately not, but students in the Honours Program have a large range of courses from which to choose their technical electives and can use these to focus their final year studies on Computers or Software.

Where can I get more information on the Honours Program?

If you want to discuss the Honours Program more completely, please contact the Departmental Office at (514) 398-3943 or e-mail the Departmental Student Adviser by e-mail at prema.menon@mcgill.ca. For more information on the Honours Program visit our Web site at <http://www.mcgill.ca/ece/>.

Program Details

The Honours Program has a limited enrolment. Students are admitted on the basis of their grades, at the start of the third semester for students entering from CEGEP (seven-semester students) and at the start of the fifth semester for students from out of province (eight-semester students).

To be *considered* for entry to the Honours program a student must have:

- Completed at least 14 credits in each semester since entering Electrical Engineering;
- Maintained a CGPA of at least 3.30 since entering Electrical Engineering; and
- Completed the usual U1 courses and (for 8-semester students) pre-engineering courses.

To stay in the Honours Program a student must continue to satisfy requirements (a) and (b).

Only students in the Honours Program are allowed to take the Honours Thesis (ECSE 498 & ECSE 499) and 500-level Electrical Engineering courses.

Degree Requirements

To graduate with an Honours degree in Electrical Engineering, students must satisfy the Regular Electrical Engineering degree requirements with the following changes:

- Honours Thesis 1, ECSE 498 (3 cr) and Honours Thesis 2, ECSE 499 (3cr), instead of ECSE 456 and ECSE 457 (Design Project 1 & 2).
- Numerical Methods in EE, ECSE 543, instead of ECSE 443.
- The three technical complementaries (9 cr) must be Electrical Engineering courses at the 500-level (or ECSE 425, ECSE 427, ECSE 451).

- Course load of at least 14 credits for each semester of the program, except for the final two semesters of their degree.
- CGPA of at least 3.30 throughout the program

In either of their final two full semesters (i.e., fall and winter, or winter and fall), students may drop below 14 credits, provided that the combined load for the two semesters is at least 16 credits).

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