

Dear Incoming MS Students of the ECE Dept:

Congratulations on your admission to USC and one of the MS programs offered by the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering!

This email is for incoming MS students to help get you started with planning and coordinating your registration and hopefully answer some of your questions. **Please be sure to read all information thoroughly!** As a courtesy we are sending this to both your USC and alternate email accounts, however, please be aware that future communications will be sent only to your USC email account.

By now, you should have received important "next steps" information for incoming Fall 2026 students from the Viterbi Admission and Student Engagement (VASE) office. If you have not read the information, please do so by visiting the VASE website at <https://viterbigrad.usc.edu/academic-services/new-student-information/>

On **Thursday, June 18th**, ECE advisors will host an **ECE Academic Webinar** for new incoming MS students. Please plan to attend this ECE Academic Webinar and [register here to attend](#). A recording will be made available at a later date if you are unable to attend. We strongly encourage you to attend the live webinar as many of your initial questions should be answered during the ECE Academic Webinar, along with reviewing the information provided below.

I. ADVISEMENT AND COURSE SELECTION:

If you need to discuss your Fall 2026 courses for the fall term, please email your respective academic advisor based on your last/family name:

A to J: Patty Rinehart- ptrinida@usc.edu

K to L: Gabby Garcia- gabby.garcia@usc.edu

M to T: Jaimie Zelada- zelada@usc.edu

U to Z: Vianey Villaseñor- vgvillas@usc.edu

Make sure to include your USC ID number in all emails!

- We will offer **Virtual Drop-In Advising via Zoom** on **Wednesdays from 10am-12pm PST** throughout the Summer 2026, **beginning on June 24th**. Use the Zoom link below to connect with an advisor over Zoom - note that your assigned advisor may not be available at each virtual drop-in advising session:
<https://usc.zoom.us/j/95970227791?pwd=K0lkdXFzejNlYjd3eFJjc0JCblR5QT09>
Meeting ID: 959 7022 7791
Passcode: 882623
- Select a maximum of 3 courses in your first semester (**though generally 2 courses for 8.0 units are what is STRONGLY recommended for most majors**). Attached to this email is a PDF file list of the recommended first-term courses organized by major/degree programs and focus areas.

- The following are the list of courses and ECE degree requirements from the USC Course Catalogue. Make sure to select your appropriate course catalogue academic year (e.g., 2026-2027 once it is available online in July): <https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=21&navoid=8766>.
- List of academic programs and MSEE Flowcharts on the ECE Dept website: <https://minghsiehece.usc.edu/academics/ms/>
 - *Please note that not all courses on the list may be offered in the upcoming term.
- This link shows the Schedule of Classes for Fall 2026 for all EE classes being offered: <https://classes.usc.edu/term/20263/catalogue/school/ENGV/program/EE>
- Registration Calendar with important add/drop deadlines listed here: <https://arr.usc.edu/registration-calendar/#chapter=fall-2026>
- If you have a registration hold of any type, try to resolve it immediately with the appropriate department as indicated, or you may not be able to register.
- For international students, you must complete the Immigration Status Verification (ISV) and have your ISV hold lifted by the Office of International Students (OIS) before registering for classes. For more information, go to: <https://ois.usc.edu/new-students/firstweeks/immigration-status-verification-isv/>

NOTE: In general, new student advisement will initially focus on your 1st semester registration only. The ECE academic advisors are not able to plan out a student's entire program of study. With careful review of your degree requirements and resources available online via the Dept. website, USC Catalogue and Schedule of Classes, students have access to information to help with their own planning.

II. PREREQUISITE WAIVERS:

- **Pre-req waiver requests:** If you need to waive an undergraduate course prerequisite (below 400 level), please submit your request via [myViterbi](#) via the Pre-Requisite Waiver Request Manager link.
- **DO NOT** contact your advisor via email or email our general inbox at ece.studentservices@usc.edu for a prerequisite waiver requests. We will only be processing requests submitted through the myViterbi online form - email requests will be deleted!
- Upon your request, all MS students in ECE are waived from courses below the 400-level. For example, the undergraduate prerequisite for EE-483 is EE-301. If you wish to enroll in EE-483, you will be waived from taking EE-301 should you submit the online pre-req waiver request via myViterbi.
- You will not be able to register for the course(s) until you get the prerequisite waived manually in the university system.
- **Important note- we DO NOT waive pre-reqs that are 400 level or higher, you MUST take the pre-req first!** For example, EE-588 has a pre-req of EE-510. You must take EE-510 first and successfully pass the class before taking EE-588 in a future semester.

III. REGISTERING FOR EE CLASSES & D-CLEARANCE REQUESTS INFORMATION

ON-CAMPUS COURSES

For New Fall 2026 On-Campus students only, please read the following instructions:

- Review your registration appointment day/time from your My Academics page in [Experience USC](#)
- To register for classes, you can log in to the Web Registration system at webreg.usc.edu using your USC Net ID and password, or by navigating to the link in your [Experience USC](#) portal.
- If the section number of a class on Web Registration you wish to take ends with an **R**, you may register for this course (once the prerequisite has been met or waived, if there is a prerequisite for the course).
- If the section number ends with a **D**, you must request Departmental Clearance (D-Clearance) through [myViterbi](#). You will need to create a profile on myViterbi first before requesting D-Clearance.
- If a class you would like to register is full, you may submit a request to be added to the Waitlist on [myViterbi](#) by clicking on the D-Clearance request. If you are already registered for 3 classes, you will not be able to request additional classes or be put on the waitlist.
- Again, for **international students**, you must complete [Immigration Status Verification \(ISV\)](#) before you will be allowed to register for classes.

DEN@VITERBI (Off-Campus Students, Part-Time Online)

For New Fall 2026 DEN students only, please read the following instructions:

- Information specific to new DEN students can be found here: <https://viterbigrad.usc.edu/ms-denviterbi-new-student-information/>
- DEN students will be notified via email with instruction in early June when Fall 2026 D-Clearances requests will open. DEN D-clearances requests are submitted through [myViterbi](#)
- Note that only classes on the USC Schedule of Classes with the location "DEN@Viterbi" are offered via the DEN@Viterbi network.
- For any questions about DEN D-clearance, please email the DEN Office at vaseden@usc.edu

NO CSCI COURSES IN THE 1ST SEMESTER

As a first semester ECE graduate student, you are not allowed to register in a CSCI course. No d-clearance will be granted to you. Only continuing ECE students (2nd semester or above) may request d-clearance from the CSCI Department.

COUNTING A NON-EE CLASS TOWARD THE MS DEGREE:

If you would like to take and count a Non-EE class toward the MS degree, please be sure to complete the ECE MS & PhD Special Requests form found on [myViterbi](#).

- You must receive approval before registering/enrolling for the class.
- Please note that specific major programs that allow for non-EE classes as part of prescribed/approved courses do not need the special request form. If you have questions about this form or approved/non-approved courses, please contact your ECE academic advisor.

PLACEMENT EXAMS

- Some higher-level courses (500 or 600-level) require students to either complete the fundamental/prerequisite course at USC or pass the placement exam. Please note that not all EE courses have placement exams.
- For more information about taking the online placement exam and to register, visit <https://minghsiehee.usc.edu/placement-exams/>
- The ECE Dept. offers placement exams for EE 450, EE 457, and a proficiency questionnaire for EE 477.
- Students are NOT required to take the placement exams. You should only take the placement exam if you feel you know the content of the course already. If you pass, then you will be waived from having to take EE 450, 457, or 477 and be able to proceed on to the higher-level class that has one of these courses listed as the pre-req. No degree credit or unit credit will be awarded for passing any placement exam.

The date for the Fall 2026 placement exams will be on August 13th and you must register for the exam by August 10th. A separate announcement will be sent via email later this summer with registration instructions.

IMPORTANT DATES:

6/18	ECE Academic Webinar (online session for both on-campus and DEN students)
7/22	DEN Orientation Part I - VASE and DEN (online session for DEN students)
7/23	DEN Orientation Part II - ECE Dept. (online session for DEN students)
8/10	ECE Placement Exam Registration Deadline (register in myViterbi)
8/13	ECE Placement Exams (online)
8/17	Orientation Part I (online)
8/18	Orientation Part II (in-person)
8/21	Deadline to settle account without late fee. (You must be registered in at least one course.)
8/24	First day of classes for Fall 2025 semester
9/7	Labor Day, University holiday, no classes
9/11	Last day to add classes and/or drop classes with a full refund

IV. ECE STUDENT SERVICES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS):

Check out the following link to review information to some of our most frequently asked questions- <https://minghsiehece.usc.edu/students/student-services-faqs/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your assigned ECE advisor.

Regards,

ECE Student Services

USC Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, EEB 102

ece.studentservices@usc.edu