Undergraduate Research Policy

Students may take a series of one-credit undergraduate research courses after completing Circuits II. These courses are for undergraduates who want to get involved in ongoing faculty research, and do not replace independent study.

Up to three credits of undergraduate research (one each for 301, 302, and 303) may be applied to degree requirements; they qualify as “open elective” credits. Undergraduate research credits may not be used to satisfy elective breadth or depth requirements.

At most one credit of undergraduate research may be taken in any semester or summer. Prior to registration, the student must identify the faculty member who will act as the research advisor, and request department chair approval on an Undergraduate Research Approval form that specifies the research plan and expected outcomes, and the possible venues for presentation or publication. The faculty advisor is responsible for assigning the final grade. Grading is CR/NC.

Students enrolled in an undergraduate research course must meet at least once a week with the faculty advisor, and contribute three to five hours a week of work. They must also attend at least four research seminars, thesis defenses, or dissertation defenses, approved by their research advisor, in the course of the semester in which they are enrolled.

Before credit is granted for an undergraduate research course, the student must make an oral presentation of the research to the department, and submit a written report in a standard format approved by the research advisor. Reports will be made available to the public on the department website. In addition, credit for 4400/4450:303 requires that the work be presented at a research venue outside of the department. Presentations at UA venues such as CUGSR and IT Day qualify; submissions to other conferences and workshops outside UA are highly encouraged. Publication of a paper in a technical journal is a desirable substitute. If a student is not able to meet this requirement in the semester in which he or she registers for the course, an “INC” may be given.

(Approved by ECE department faculty, May 2012)
Bulletin Descriptions

4400: 301 Undergraduate Research I: Electrical Engineering 1 credit
Prerequisite: completion of 101 or 4450:101, 4450:220, 230, 231, 330, and 332 with a combined average grade of 3.0 or higher, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report.

4400: 302 Undergraduate Research II: Electrical Engineering 1 credit
Prerequisite: 301 or 4450:301, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report.

4400: 303 Undergraduate Research III: Electrical Engineering 1 credit
Prerequisite: 302 or 4450:302, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report to the department, and presentation of work in a research venue outside the department.

4400: 304 Undergraduate Research IV: Electrical Engineering 1 credit
(May be repeated. May not be applied to degree requirements.) Prerequisite: 303 or 4450:303, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report.

4450: 301 Undergraduate Research I: Computer Engineering 1 credit
Prerequisite: completion of 101 or 4400:101, 220, 4400:230, 4400:231, 4400:330, and 4400:332 with a combined average grade of 3.0 or higher, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report.

4450: 302 Undergraduate Research II: Computer Engineering 1 credit
Prerequisite: 301 or 4400:301, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report.

4450: 303 Undergraduate Research III: Computer Engineering 1 credit
Prerequisite: 302 or 4400:302, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report to the department, and presentation of work in a research venue outside the department.

4450: 304 Undergraduate Research IV: Computer Engineering 1 credit
(May be repeated. May not be applied to degree requirements.) Prerequisite: 303 or 4400:303, and permission. Research project, supervised by faculty member of the department; requires oral research presentation and written report.
Undergraduate Research Approval Form

Student name: ________________________________  Student ID: ___________________

Faculty advisor: ________________________________  Semester: ________________

Course to be taken:
☐ 4400:301  ☐ 4400:302  ☐ 4400:303  ☐ 4400:304
☐ 4450:301  ☐ 4450:302  ☐ 4450:303  ☐ 4450:304

Research plan and expected outcomes:

Possible venues for presentation: (External venue required for 303)
Students meeting the prerequisites specified in the Undergraduate Bulletin may seek permission to take undergraduate research courses. Up to three credits of undergraduate research (one each for 301, 302, and 303) may be applied to degree requirements as “open elective” credits. Undergraduate research credits may not be used to satisfy elective breadth or depth requirements.

At most one credit of undergraduate research may be taken in any semester or summer. The student must submit this form and obtain approval prior to registration.

The faculty advisor is responsible for assigning the final grade. Grading is CR/NC.

Before credit is granted for an undergraduate research course, the student must make an oral presentation of the research to the department, and submit a written report in a standard format approved by the research advisor. Reports will be made available to the public on the department website. In addition, credit for 4400/4450:303 requires presentation of the work at a research venue outside of the department or publication of the paper in a technical journal. If a student is not able to meet this requirement in the semester in which he or she registers for the course, an “INC” may be given.