

# MEEN 491 and 485 GUIDELINES

MEEN 485 – Directed Studies is available to students for special projects or directed course material with a specific professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering

MEEN 491 – Research is available to students who will be involved in independent research under the tutelage of a specific professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

\*Students must be completed with their fourth semester coursework\* (i.e., MEEN 260, 315, 357, and ECEN 215) before being enrolled in MEEN 485/491/491H; otherwise, students can be enrolled in MEEN 285/291 research, but these credits will NOT count toward the MEEN degree nor Honors designation.

In both cases, students must prepare a proposed syllabus for the respective course(s) using the attached template. Your faculty advisor must approve your proposed syllabus. Note: one 485 / 491 credit hour is equivalent to 4 scheduled work hours per week. Thus, if the student registers for 3 credits of 485 / 491, the weekly schedule should reflect at least 12 hours of scheduled work.

How do I know if I should register for MEEN 485 or MEEN 491?

Are you learning or embodying something that's already known? MEEN 485

Are you in pursuit of discovering / advancing knowledge? MEEN 491

Can I have more than 3 credits of either MEEN 485 or 491 apply to my degree? No. You can only apply 3 credits each of MEEN 485 or MEEN 491 to your degree. You can register for less than 3 credits of either course; regardless of the number of credits enrolled, you must justify your credit hours per the proposal requirements described above. You may enroll in more than 3 credits of either (e.g., to support Honors thesis), but only 3 credits of either can apply toward your degree.

Can I have credits of MEEN 485 and MEEN 491 both apply to my degree? Yes, but only if each are unique learning experiences. That is, using a MEEN 485 and MEEN 491 to construct a year-long engineering or research project is not the spirit of combining these two courses. But, applying specialized skills learned in a MEEN 485 one semester to a novel research project a subsequent semester would likely be two different unique learning experiences. Talk with an advisor to fully understand the details.

For both courses (MEEN 485 and 491), students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. If approved, the courses will satisfy a non-MEEN technical elective on your degree plan. Students may take MEEN 491 for Honors research; additional paperwork with the Honors office is required.

## Procedures

- Identify a Faculty Advisor, select a topic, and prepare a syllabus proposal as described above.
- Complete the attached *REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN MEEN 491 or 485* form (including faculty signatures) and syllabus.
- **Documents must be submitted NO LATER THAN the THIRD class day.**
- The Advising Office will automatically enroll you in the course if approved.

**REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN MEEN 485, 491, or 491H**

STUDENT UIN: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF DIRECTED STUDY / RESEARCH: \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS REQUEST IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GUIDINES STATED ON PAGE 1?  YES  NO  
IF NO, A MEMO FROM THE FACULTY ADVISOR JUSTIFYING ANY AND ALL EXCEPTIONS MUST BE INCLUDED.

HAVE YOU ENROLLED IN EITHER A MEEN 485 OR MEEN 491 BEFORE?  YES<sup>1</sup>  NO  
IF YES, EXPLAIN HOW THIS PROPOSED 485 / 491 IS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR EARLIER 485 / 491: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>N.B. It is not the spirit of MEEN 485 / 491 to create year-long research / engineering projects.

INDICATE 485, 491, 491H	NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS:	DEGREE PLAN REQUIREMENTS (e.g., non-MEEN Technical Elective) <sup>2</sup>	SEMESTER & YEAR

<sup>2</sup>Students may choose to take MEEN 485, 491, or 491H, and not have it fulfill a degree plan requirement. The basic eligibility requirements, however, must still be met. The course will still appear on the student's transcript and will be used in determining his or her GPA.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Undergraduate Program Director*

**Note: It is the student's responsibility to check on the status of this request. Please check with your Faculty Advisor.**

**FOR MEEN ADVISING OFFICE USE ONLY**

Request approved. Student registered: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of approved proposal sent to Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Request denied. Original proposal returned to Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*rev. 12-22-2016*



### Course Information

Course prefix and number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Term (e.g., Fall 2XXX): \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Note\* Students must be completed with their fourth semester coursework (i.e., MEEN 315, MEEN 260, MEEN 357 and ECEN 215) before being enrolled in MEEN 485/491/491H; otherwise, students can do MEEN 285/291 research, but these credits will NOT count toward the MEEN degree nor Honors designation.*

### Instructor Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_

### Research/Study Topic

#### Objectives

*(what do you expect to learn from the course?)*

#### Approach

*(how will you go about satisfying the objective(s)?)*

**Expected Outcomes/Deliverables**

*(what must you produce, if anything, by the end of the semester?)*

**Weekly Schedule**

*(One 485 / 491 credit hour is equivalent to 4 scheduled work hours per week. Thus, if the student registers for 3 credits of 485 / 491, the weekly schedule should reflect at least 12 hours of scheduled work.)*

Dates	Tasks

**Credit Hour Justification**

*(how do you justify the number of credits being enrolled?)*

**Grading Scheme**

*(how will your grade be determined at the end of the semester?)*

**Grading Scale**

- A 90-100%
- B 80<90%
- C 70<80%
- D 65<70%
- F 0<65%

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>

## **Academic Integrity**

***Aggie Honor Code: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do."*** Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: [www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/](http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/)