To qualify for PhD candidacy, all students must satisfy the EECE Core requirements by obtaining a B- or better in the following courses:

- EECE 7001/8001 Professional Development.
- EECE 7251/8251 Random Signals and Noise.
- An EECE 7000/8000 course chosen by the student’s Advisory Committee. This course cannot be a special topics course. Department Chair may make exceptions. A written justification for the exception is required.

A maximum of two attempts are allowed for each course, and must be made within three semesters, excluding summer, of entering the program.