

MEEN 491 and 485 GUIDELINES

MEEN 485 – Directed Studies is available to students for special projects or problems to work 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.

These courses offer students an opportunity to gain meaningful engineering experience through involvement in research, or similar activities, while also acquiring specialized knowledge in a given subject area. Identification of a professor Faculty Advisor and a subject area is the responsibility of the student. Development of project details typically involves interaction with the Faculty Advisor.

Eligibility and Options

- 1. Independent Study/Projects – MEEN 485.** Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and will typically register for 3 semester credit hours. The course is usually eligible to be substituted for one Technical Elective.
- 2. Undergraduate Research – MEEN 491.** Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and will typically register for 3 semester credit hours. The course is usually eligible to be substituted for one Technical Elective.
- 3. Honors Undergraduate Research – MEEN 491H.** Students must be part of an official Honors Program activity, which will have its own set of eligibility requirements. Additional forms, approvals, and paperwork as required for the Honors Program activity must be provided and copies attached to the *REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN MEEN 491, 491H, or 485* form. Students will typically register for 3 semester credit hours. The course is usually eligible to be substituted for one Technical Elective.

Procedures

- Determine eligibility and choose an option for participation
- Identify a Faculty Advisor and work with this professor to select a topic and to formulate a research plan
- Complete the form *REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN MEEN 491, 491H, or 485* form (including faculty signatures) and submit it and your proposal to the Mechanical Engineering Advising Office (include additional materials for 491H)
- This form must be submitted by the end of the week (Friday) before the start of semester for which credit will be earned
- By signing this form, the student agrees to comply with all requirements and to submit a copy of the Final Report to the Mechanical Engineering Advising Office once completed

Please note: Students may choose to take MEEN 491, 491H, or 485 and not have it substitute for any other course. However, the basic eligibility requirements for the course must still be met. The course will still appear on the student's transcript and will be used in determining his or her GPA.

