

MEEN 491 AND 491H GUIDELINES

MEEN 491 – Research is available to students who are motivated to conduct research under the tutelage of a specific professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The course offers students an opportunity to gain meaningful engineering experience through involvement in research 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 research details typically involves coordination and interaction with the Faculty Advisor.

Eligibility and Options

1. **Undergraduate Research – MEEN 491.** Students must have a minimum GPR 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. **Honors Undergraduate Research – MEEN 491H.** Students must be part of the Honors Program (9 previous honors credits) or a member of the Engineering Scholars Program (ESP). Students must meet all requirements for "Honors Independent Study" and complete the application form (available from the Honors Program). Students will typically register for 3 semester credit hours. The course is usually eligible to be substituted for one Technical Elective.
3. **Honors Senior Thesis – MEEN 491H.** Students must meet the same requirements as for item 2 above. In addition, MEEN 491H will be taken during two successive semesters customarily. The Senior Thesis option requires a Thesis Committee (two additional faculty members) in addition to a Faculty Advisor. The two MEEN 491H courses may be substituted for two Technical Electives (3 credit hours each).
4. **University Fellows Program (UFP) – MEEN 491H.** Students must meet the same requirements as for item 2 above. In addition, students must be accepted into the *University Undergraduate Fellows Research Program*. Further details are available through the Honors Program and at: <http://honors.tamu.edu/Honors/Community/Fellows/fellows.aspx> . This program requires fall/spring participation and includes registration in two MEEN 491H courses, which may be substituted for two Technical Electives (3 credit hours each). In addition to a Faculty Advisor, a Thesis Committee (two additional faculty members) is also required.

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 OR 491H" and submit it and your proposal to the Mechanical Engineering Advising Office
- This form must be submitted by the end of “dead week” of the preceding 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 or 491H and not have it substitute for any other course. However, the basic eligibility requirements for MEEN 491 must still be met. The course will still appear on the student’s transcript and will be used in determining his or her GPR.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN MEEN 491 OR 491H

Proposal Requirements: This form must be accompanied by a one to two page proposal describing the project. The format should be Objective, Procedure, and Expected Results. This proposal should be patterned after a thesis proposal but on a smaller scale (see your Faculty Advisor for guidance).

STUDENT'S UIN: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ GPR: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

TITLE OF PROJECT: _____

<p>THIS REQUEST IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES STATED ON PAGE 1: <u>YES</u> <u>NO</u> <i>(If "NO", approval requires a memo to the Undergraduate Coordinator from the student through the faculty advisor stating justification for an exception)</i> (check one)</p> <p>Student: _____ NAME (print clearly or type) SIGNATURE</p>
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FACULTY ADVISOR: _____
 (Name) (Signature)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: _____
 (if applicable) (Name) (Signature)

_____ (Name) (Signature)

- Options:** 1. Undergraduate Research – MEEN 491 2. Honors Undergraduate Research – MEEN 491H
 (see Page 1) 3. Honors Senior Thesis – MEEN 491H 4. University Fellows Program (UFP) – MEEN 491H

OPTION: (indicate no.)	INDICATE 491 or 491H:	NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS:	TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR (e.g., Technical Elective)	SEMESTER & YEAR

Approval Recommended: _____ DATE: _____
 Undergraduate Coordinator

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

<u>FOR MEEN ADVISING OFFICE USE ONLY</u>			
Request approved. Student registered: _____ Date Section #	Copy of approved proposal sent to faculty advisor: _____ Date		
Request denied. Original proposal returned to faculty advisor: _____ Date			