Frequently Asked Questions on the EE Curriculum

1. What courses can be used as HSS electives?

   The dean's office publishes a list of courses that can and cannot be used to meet this requirement. A printout of this list is available in Thornton A-122.

2. Is there anything else that we need to be aware of in choosing an HSS elective?

   Students cannot take language courses in their native language for HSS electives. Native language was designated on their application to UVA.

3. Are unrestricted electives completely unrestricted?

   Not really. By definition, an unrestricted elective may be any graded course in the University except mathematics courses below MATH 1310 (Math 131) (or APMA 1090 (Math 109)) and any other courses that substantially duplicate courses offered for the degree.

4. I have to take APMA 1090 (APMA 109). Can I use it for something?

   Yes. You can use it as an unrestricted elective (three credits).

5. What are the choices for the science elective?

   There are 7 choices: BIOL 2010 (BIOL 201), BIOL 2020 (BIOL 202), CHEM 1620 (CHEM 152), ECE 2066 (ECE 200), ENGR 2500, MSE 2090 (MSE 209) and PHYS 2620 (PHYS 252).

6. What courses are counted as Tech Electives?

   A technical elective is defined as a course in engineering (may be ECE), mathematics, or science (intended for science majors) at the 3000 level or above. Any course appearing on the approved list of HSS electives may not be used as a technical elective.

7. Can I take COMM classes as Tech electives?

   COMM classes may be used as unrestricted electives, not as technical electives.

8. Can I take ASTR 3420 (ASTR 342) as a Technical Elective?

   No. ASTR 3420 (ASTR 342) is not intended for science majors.

9. Are we required to sign up for the ECE 4907 (ECE 407) MDE course?

   Yes. But, you have the option to sign up for either ECE 4907-01 (ECE 407-01) (the main
section) or ECE 4907-02 (ECE 407-02), ECE 4907-03 (ECE 407-03) etc, as long as, they satisfy the MDE criteria approved by the faculty. The MDE criteria can be found in this handbook. (See also question # 13.)

10. What requirements can ECE 2066 (ECE 200) be used to fulfill?

ECE 2066 (ECE 200) can be used as a science elective or an unrestricted elective. It is not an ECE elective or a tech elective.

11. I heard that some physics and MSE courses can be used to satisfy the ECE electives requirement. Is that true?

Yes. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee has recommended that the ECE Dept. develop ECE classes that are cross listed with MSE 6670 (MSE 567: Electronic, Optical and Magnetic Properties of Material), PHYS 5310 (PHYS 531: Optics) and PHYS 5320 (PHYS 532: Fundamentals of Photonics). Before such ECE courses are developed, EE students may use these MSE and Physics courses as ECE electives.

12. Can I deviate from the curriculum a little bit?

Deviation from the curriculum requires the approval of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. You must petition to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for any deviation. Petition should be discussed with your adviser, and should be sent by email to Professor Scott Barker (nsb6t@virginia.edu).

13. Can I use ENGR 4010 (ENGR 401) and ENGR 4020 (ENGR 402) as ECE electives?

If you want to use ENGR 4010/4020 to fulfill the MDE requirement, you may petition to use ENGR 4010 (ENGR 401) as an ECE elective. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will approve the petition based on the actual Electrical Engineering contents of your project. ENGR 4020 (ENGR 402) cannot be used as an ECE elective.