

Comparing the D.Eng. and Ph.D. | Systems Engineering

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.) programs in the Systems Engineering Department at Colorado State University are both advanced degrees that equip students with cutting-edge research abilities and skills.

This information sheet provides an overview of the main similarities and differences between the programs. Please reach out to the department (sys_engr_info@engr.colostate.edu) with any additional questions you have.

Ph.D. and D.Eng. | Similarities



STUDENT BACKGROUND

Students in both the Ph.D. and D.Eng. programs are usually mid- to late-career, although the Ph.D. program also has students who are earlier in their career. **Important note:** The D.Eng. has a minimum experience requirement of 5-8 years in a technical/engineering role, depending on if a technical master's degree has been completed.



FUNDING

Many of the students in the Ph.D. and D.Eng. programs receive funding support from their employer. This is often received through a tuition reimbursement program. Doctoral students are eligible for other forms of funding support through CSU, federal aid, and other third-party organizations. Funding eligibility sometimes depends on whether students are on-campus or online.



PROGRAM LOGISTICS

Both doctoral programs require a qualification process, preliminary exams, final exam (dissertation defense), and the completion of a rigorous dissertation document. The D.Eng. program timeline is based on an applied research practicum, while the Ph.D. is based on an academic research process.



CAN BE COMPLETED 100% ONLINE

Both the Ph.D. and D.Eng. programs are set up to be completed either on-campus or online. There are no campus visits or residency requirements, though some fully online students do choose to come to campus to work with faculty or to complete their preliminary or final exams.



TIME TO GRADUATION

Both programs have similar required credit numbers and publication expectations. It is very common for students in both programs to be enrolled part-time. Average time to graduation for a part-time doctoral student is 4-5 years, though this varies by student. Both degrees grant students the title of "Doctor."

Important Note: Transferring between the Ph.D. and D.Eng. programs is **not** permitted.



Ph.D. and D.Eng. | Differences

