Polymer Science and Engineering

Lehigh University has a diverse group of faculty members with strong, primary interest in polymer science and engineering. In order to provide better opportunities for courses and research in this interdisciplinary field, activities are coordinated through the Polymer Science and Engineering (PSE) graduate program. Polymer faculty from traditional departments of chemical engineering, chemistry, materials science and engineering, physics, and mechanical engineering and mechanics, are participants of the PSE graduate program.

There are two ways in which qualified graduate students, with degrees in the above or related fields, may participate in polymer science and engineering. Students may pursue graduate studies within an appropriate department. Departmental procedures must be followed for the degree sought. The student’s adviser must be in that department and the student receives a normal departmental degree, with emphasis in polymer courses and research. Such students are encouraged to pursue a graduate certificate in polymer science and engineering.

Alternatively, students may elect to pursue studies toward an interdisciplinary M.S., M.E., or Ph.D. degree in polymer science and engineering. Such students are directly admitted into the PSE graduate program and must follow the program’s procedures for the degree sought. The student’s adviser must be a member of the PSE graduate program.

Master of Science Degree in Polymer Science and Engineering
Master of Science Degree in Polymer Science and Engineering requires a total of 24 credits in course work and six credits in research. The masters thesis is directed and signed by a faculty member of the Center for Polymer Science and Engineering and co-signed by the chairman of the Polymer Education Committee or the director of the CPSE.

Master of Engineering Degree in Polymer Science and Engineering
Master of Engineering Degree in Polymer Science and Engineering requires a total of 30 credits of course work. This option is intended for those students who do not work in a laboratory setting, or for whom thesis research is not practical, but who wish to obtain an advanced education in polymer science and engineering.

Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering
For the Ph.D., the student must satisfactorily complete a qualifying examination administered by the Polymer Education Committee; satisfactorily complete graduate course work determined in consultation with the doctoral committee; pass a general examination administered by the Polymer Education Committee; and defend to the satisfaction of the doctoral committee, a dissertation in the field of polymer science and engineering. Students deficient in polymer science or related topics may be required by their committee to take remedial course work.

The doctoral committee consists of the research adviser, at least two other members of the polymer science and engineering graduate program, and at least one outside person. The committee’s composition is subject to approval by the PSE Director and the Dean of the Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science.

For more information, please email us at inpse@lehigh.edu. The program office can be found at Polymer Science and Engineering Graduate Program, Whitaker Laboratory, 5 E. Packer Avenue, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015.