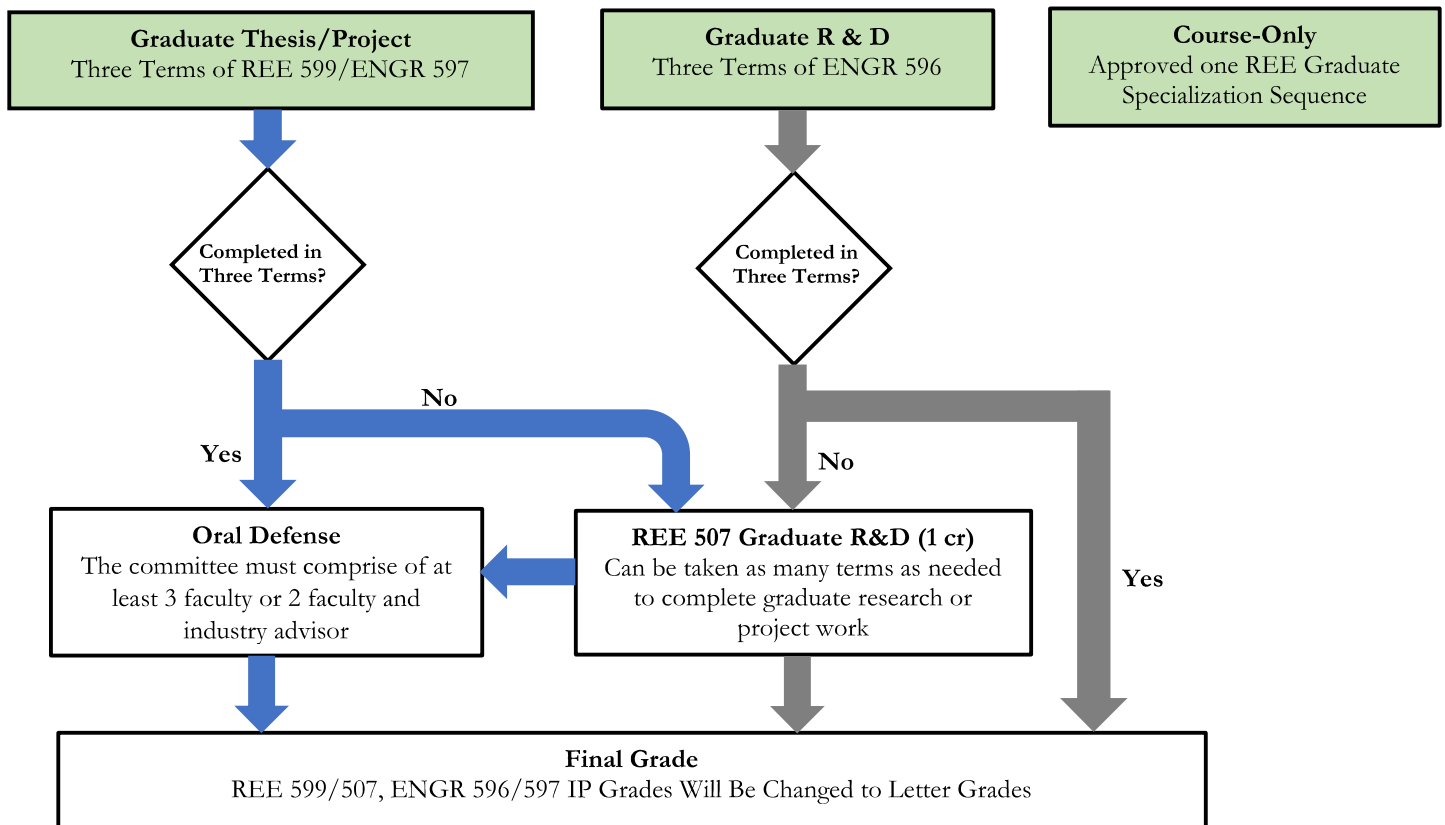


MS in RENEWABLE ENERGY ENGINEERING DEGREE OPTIONS

SELECTING A DEGREE OPTION

- **The Options:** Graduate Thesis, Graduate Project, Graduate Research & Development, and Course Only.
- **Eligibility:** Students in the accelerated BS/MSREE track who have not completed an undergraduate capstone project are only allowed to complete ENGR 597 (*Graduate Project*) or *Graduate Research & Development* (ENGR 596) in order to satisfy the undergraduate capstone project requirements.
- **Approval:** Students interested in *Coursework-only MSREE* should get a prior approval from their advisor or MSREE Program Director to take the additional REE graduate specialization sequence that satisfies this option.
- **Continuous Enrollment:** Students who do not complete the requirements for the graduate thesis/project/R&D courses in three terms, but who will continue to use faculty and university resources for work related to graduate thesis/project/R&D must continue to register for at least 1 credit per term in an independent study course, REE 507 – *Graduate R&D*.
- **Grading:** Grading for thesis, project, or graduate R&D courses will be IP (in progress) every term, until the student has completed the work. At that time, the faculty member will replace the IP grade with a letter grade (A - D). If not cleared within 5 years of issuance, IP grades will automatically revert to a F.
- **Paperwork:** Students completing the graduate thesis or Graduate Project options must submit a *Final Approval Form* after successful completion of the oral defense. The form can be downloaded from the Registrar’s Office website (www.oit.edu/registrar).

FLOW CHART FOR SELECTING A DEGREE OPTION



REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OPTIONS

- 1. Graduate Thesis (REE 599):** This option involves working on original research under the supervision of a faculty member who acts as the thesis advisor. The student selects a topic, conducts an extensive literature review, develops research questions, and works on finding answers to those research questions. This work typically requires design of experiments, collection of data, and testing of hypotheses, among other things. This option requires the student to write a formal MS Thesis summarizing all aspects of their endeavor, followed by an oral defense before a committee of at least 3 faculty members, one of which must be the thesis advisor. This process is not straightforward, it is time-consuming in nature, and may require several iterations. Because of this, students intending to go this route are encouraged to start thinking about potential thesis topics early in their study program (second term). Students should select a faculty committee around the time they register for the last term of Graduate Thesis.
- 2. Graduate Project (ENGR 597):** This option entails solving a problem or issue of significance in the chosen field by means of a project involving some original design and development. The student selects a topic, conducts a state-of-the-art review, develops a specification which may consist of improving an existing design or taking a new approach to solving the problem at hand. Depending on the nature of the project, it may require the development of a prototype or similar deliverable demonstrating that the proposed design solves the problem and meets the specifications. The graduate project option requires the student to write a formal Graduate Project report summarizing all aspects of their work, followed by an oral defense before a committee of at least 3 faculty members, one of which must be the graduate project advisor. The design process is iterative and time-consuming in nature. To avoid unnecessary delays, students are encouraged to start thinking about project definition early in their program of study (second term). Students should select a faculty committee around the time they register for the last term of graduate project.
- 3. Graduate Research & Development (ENGR 596):** This option involves conducting research and/or developing a project in a chosen topic. The scope of the research or project must meet the standards for graduate work, like the graduate thesis and graduate project options. In the case of students following the accelerated BS/MSREE path who have not completed an undergraduate capstone project, the scope of the project must also meet the requirements for the undergraduate capstone project. However, the requirements of review for this option are lower. Under this option, an oral defense before a faculty committee is not required. The work is graded exclusively by the faculty advisor supervising the work, who will also determine the particular deliverables appropriate to the nature of the work performed by the student (e.g., project report, oral presentation, live demonstration, etc.).
- 4. Coursework-only MSREE:** In this option, the student completes an additional approved REE graduate specialization sequence (9 credits) in lieu of a graduate thesis/project/R&D. Students should get prior approval for the sequence from their academic advisor or MSREE Program Director.