

The Georgia Tech/Seoul National University Joint doctoral degree in Mechanical Engineering was established for the purpose of a research and teaching partnership with one of the finest universities in the world—number one in Korea. This program provide global opportunities for our students and provide potential for faculty and student exchanges between two campuses.

Program Requirements:

1. The PhD student in the joint program is co-supervised by both co-advisors during his/her stays at both GT and SNU. It should be true collaboration in the spirit of a joint degree program and should be reflected in jointly authored papers, joint conference presentations, etc.
2. Program of study has to be filled and approved during the first semester in the program. It should satisfy the coursework requirements of the home institution. The only additional requirement - a student is required to take at least one graduate level course while in residence at the host institution, which would result in the minimal exposure to the curriculum of each of the host institutions, both in terms of content and delivery style. This course could be counted towards the total credit hour requirement for the PhD degree.
3. The qualifying exams will have to be taken only at the home (originating) institution based on its “local” rules and requirements (the other partner institution will honor the results).
4. Prior to proposal presentation, the GT ME Graduate Committee will have to approve the thesis reading committee, which should be chaired by 2 co-advisors from SNU and GT and must consist of no fewer than 5 members with at least 2 members from each institution.
5. The proposal announcement rules of GT/SNU must be followed and the proposal presentation/defense is strongly preferred to be conducted jointly by the full reading committee (i.e., at the same time, via a video link or by committee members traveling to the same location – either GT or SNU). Under the special circumstances, two separate presentations at each institution can be conducted with the faculty feedback formally exchanged among the reading committee members between the presentation events. This should be coordinated by the co-advisors and approved by the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, and only a single pass/fail decision must be reached independent of whether one joint or two separate presentations are conducted.
6. There is a GT ME requirement of at least 6 months passing between the proposal presentation and the thesis defense data. It must be adhered regardless of the rules at SNU and whether a student comes to the joint program from GT or SNU.
7. The PhD thesis defense must be conducted jointly, be announced 2 weeks in advance and be open to public, with an entire reading committee present either in person (preferred) or via a video link.
8. The GT ME has two additional requirements of seminars and the teaching practicum. For students entering the joint program from GT as a home institution, these requirements must be met before graduation. For students “originating” from SNU, the teaching practicum requirement could be waived by the GT ME Graduate Committee under certain circumstances due to logistic challenges (it must be petitioned by the student with justification). The seminar requirement must be satisfied via seminars or equivalent events attended either at GT or SNU. The record of attendance must be kept and supplied to GT ME Graduate Office upon completion.
9. The standard GT ME forms need to be used in submitting all requirement documentations that accompany steps 1-8.