



MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Study Guide

Mechanical Engineering

Doctoral (Ph.D.) Program

This study guide is for advisory purposes only.

The [Graduate Study Regulations](#) are the official and binding rules
for the conduct of the Ph.D. degree.

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1. Mechanical Engineering Doctoral Program

The Doctoral Program in Mechanical Engineering is designed for students who aim to become independent researchers capable of producing original scientific knowledge and advancing engineering practice. Building on a Master's-level foundation, the program combines advanced graduate coursework with an extensive research phase in which students identify an open problem, develop new methods or insights, and contribute to the scientific literature in their field.

According to Article 38 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), the aim of a Ph.D. program is to equip students with the skills of doing independent research, interpreting scientific phenomena with broad and in-depth analysis, and determining the steps that will lead to new syntheses. The doctoral thesis must bear at least one of the following qualities:

- introducing innovation to science by generating new knowledge,
- developing a new method of scientific research and applying it, or
- developing a new application of a well-known method.

Doctoral students work closely with faculty members in research areas spanning the breadth of Mechanical Engineering, including Solid and Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics and Energy Systems, Heat Transfer, Manufacturing Technologies, Materials Engineering, Design and Optimization, Control Systems, Robotics, Mechatronics, and Computational Engineering. Graduates are prepared for academic careers, leading research and development positions in industry, and technology-driven entrepreneurship.

In this guide, we summarize the key points, procedures, and deadlines that doctoral students should follow during their studies. **This guide applies to students admitted to the Doctoral Program with a Master's degree.** Students admitted to the Ph.D. on Bachelor's degree program are subject to different course loads and durations (at least 14 credit courses, courses completed within 6 semesters, Qualifying Exam by the end of the 7th semester, maximum duration of 14 semesters) and should consult their thesis advisor and the Doctoral Program Registration Advisor. We would also like to remind students that the information and suggestions provided in this document are not binding. The binding reference for your studies is the [Graduate Study Regulations](#).

Note on terminology: the [Graduate Study Regulations](#) refer to the Doctoral Qualifying Exam as the "Doctoral Comprehensive Examination (DCE)" and to the Thesis Monitoring Committee as the "Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC)". The department's terms are used in this guide.

1.1. Language

The official language of the Mechanical Engineering Doctoral Program at METU is English. All technical courses are taught in English, and English is also the main language in the research environment. The Doctoral Qualifying Exam, the thesis proposal defense, and the thesis defense are all conducted in English. To be eligible for the Doctoral Qualifying Exam, students must have passed the METU English Proficiency Exam or another equivalent English exam as determined by the University Senate.

1.2. Duration

According to Article 39 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), the **normal duration** of a Ph.D. program is **8 semesters** and the **maximum duration** is **12 semesters**. The doctoral program consists of a coursework

phase followed by a research phase marked by several milestones. The key time limits are summarized below:

- All credit-bearing courses and the seminar course must be completed within a maximum of **4 semesters**.
- ME 599 Research Methods and Ethics in Engineering and ME 690 Ph.D. Thesis Seminar must be passed before the **end of the 4th semester**.
- The Doctoral Qualifying Exam must be taken **no later than the end of the 5th semester**.
- The Thesis Monitoring Committee must be formed **within one month** after passing the Qualifying Exam.
- The thesis proposal must be defended **within six months** after passing the Qualifying Exam.
- The doctoral thesis must be defended **before the end of the 12th semester**.

Students are encouraged to begin their research activities early. Completing the coursework in the first three to four semesters and taking the Qualifying Exam immediately afterwards leaves sufficient time for the thesis proposal and the research phase.

1.3. Academic Advisor

Each doctoral student must have a main thesis advisor who is a METU faculty member affiliated with the Mechanical Engineering Department. Students select a thesis advisor and determine a thesis topic by the deadline set and announced by the Department. This agreement is documented through a thesis protocol ([G2](#)).

The doctoral thesis advisor and thesis title are defined by the student and the advisor using the MS–PhD Advisor Assignment program (71) in the Student Information System. The assignment is then approved by the Department Chair and the Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences. Otherwise, the student's doctoral thesis registration will not be valid.

The advisor plays a central role throughout the doctoral studies. Once assigned, the thesis supervisor also acts as the student's academic advisor: the advisor provides guidance in course selection, approves semester registrations, and supports the student's professional development. The course program of each student is designed jointly by the student and the advisor according to the rules given in the Curriculum section. The advisor will not allow registration for students who have not been defined in the advisor assignment program by their 3rd semester; however, this assignment should be completed before the 3rd semester so that course loads can be determined appropriately.

As students gain experience, their research interests may evolve. In such cases, students are encouraged to discuss their plans openly with their advisor. Thesis advisor change requests are evaluated by the Graduate Education Committee, and a recommendation is made to the Department Chair. For the change to be approved, the approval of both the old and new thesis advisors is required, together with an assessment of whether the student's previously taken courses align with the new thesis topic. (See the form: [G6](#))

Some doctoral research topics are interdisciplinary and may benefit from expertise beyond the advisor's primary field. According to Article 41 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), when the nature of the thesis work calls for more than one supervisor, a co-supervisor may be assigned by the recommendation of the

Department Chair and the approval of the Graduate School. The co-supervisor may be a faculty member from inside or outside the University holding at least a doctoral degree. The co-supervisor may attend Thesis Monitoring Committee meetings and the thesis defense, but is not a voting member of the thesis jury.

1.4. Curriculum

According to Article 40 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), the Doctoral Program consists of **at least 7 credit-bearing courses** with a total of at least 21 credits, one seminar course, the Doctoral Qualifying Exam, the thesis proposal, thesis work, and the defense of the thesis before a jury. In addition, the department requires one ethics course. Students must obtain a grade of **CB or higher** in each credit-bearing course and maintain a **cumulative GPA of at least 3.00**. Students who cannot successfully complete the credit courses and the seminar course within four semesters, or whose cumulative GPA is below 3.00 at the end of this period, are not allowed to take the Doctoral Qualifying Exam and are **dismissed from the program**. The main requirements are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of doctoral program requirements

Requirement	Rule
Program load	At least 7 credit courses (minimum 21 credits), one seminar course, the Doctoral Qualifying Exam, the thesis proposal, thesis work and the thesis defense
Duration	Normal duration 8 semesters; maximum duration 12 semesters
Credit-bearing courses	Completed within 4 semesters, all at graduate level
Minimum grade	CB or higher in each course; cumulative GPA of at least 3.00
Mathematics	ME 540
Core (pool) courses	At least 1 course from the departmental pool
ME graduate courses	At least 3 ME graduate courses, excluding ME 510, ME 521 and ME 540
Courses outside ME	At most 3 courses from other departments
Ethics	ME 599 Research Methods and Ethics in Engineering (non-credit, S grade) by the end of the 4th semester
Seminar	ME 690 Ph.D. Thesis Seminar (non-credit, S grade) by the end of the 4th semester
Qualifying Exam	After completing courses and seminar with CGPA ≥ 3.00 ; no later than the end of the 5th semester (May or November)
Thesis	ME 600 and ME 9XX every semester; proposal within 6 months of the Qualifying Exam; at least 3 TMC reports before the defense

All courses in the program must be at the graduate level. Doctoral students may take undergraduate courses; however, these courses do not count towards their course load or doctoral credits. Additional courses taken after completing the required minimum course load of 7 courses are not included in the GPA but are shown on the transcript. Such extra-curricular courses are registered with **NI (Not Included)** status; the NI status

cannot be changed after the semester's registration is completed, and an NI course can only be repeated with the same status.

Graduate students cannot withdraw from courses. A failed course must be repeated, and a course in the program that was failed or could not be taken must be taken in the first semester it is offered; with advisor approval, a failed elective may be replaced by another appropriate course. Students may also repeat a passed course to raise their GPA with the approval of the instructor, in which case the latest grade is valid.

1.4.1. Mathematics Requirement

All doctoral students are required to take **ME 540** to satisfy the mathematics requirement of the program. In total, doctoral students must complete **2 mathematics courses** over their graduate programs (Master's + Doctorate). Students who completed their Master's degree at METU Mechanical Engineering typically satisfy the Master's-level mathematics requirement with ME 521.

1.4.2. Core (Pool) Courses

Students must take **at least 1 course** from the department's core graduate course pool:

- ME 502 Advanced Dynamics
- ME 503 Advanced Gas Dynamics
- ME 504 Advanced Heat Transfer I
- ME 505 Advanced Heat Transfer II
- ME 511 Modern Control
- ME 517 Advanced Fluid Dynamics
- ME 526 Vibration of Continuous Systems with Computational Methods (ME 532 Advanced Machinery Vibrations after semester 2022-1)
- ME 537 Advanced Engineering Thermodynamics I
- ME 541 Plasticity and Computer-Aided Metal Forming
- ME 543 Theory of Elasticity
- ME 547 Introduction to Continuum Mechanics

In total, doctoral students must complete **3 pool courses** over their graduate programs (Master's + Doctorate). Students who completed their Master's degree outside METU must apply to the Graduate Education Committee for approval of the equivalency of the mathematics and pool courses they have taken.

1.4.3. Electives

The remaining courses are selected by the student and the thesis advisor to build expertise in the student's research area, subject to the following rules:

- At least **3 courses** must be graduate courses offered by the Mechanical Engineering Department, excluding ME 510, ME 521 and ME 540.
- The program may contain **at most 3 courses** offered by other departments, subject to the approval of the Departmental Graduate Education Committee.

Students wishing to take credit-bearing courses from outside the department must have a thesis protocol, and their thesis advisor must indicate on the relevant request form ("Non-ME Courses Request Form: G7") that the course is appropriate, together with the justification. The form should be submitted by the last day of the registration week with an unofficial academic transcript and the course content attached. The Department of Mechanical Engineering decides whether the course can be counted as part of the student's normal course load.

Useful Resources:

- [Graduate-level Course Catalog](#) and [Opening Frequency](#)

1.4.4. Ethics Course

In the Mechanical Engineering Doctoral Program, students must successfully complete the non-credit course **ME 599 Research Methods and Ethics in Engineering** and receive an S grade before the end of their fourth semester. This requirement applies to students who started their graduate studies in the Fall semester of 2016–2017 or later.

1.4.5. Thesis Seminar

Students must successfully complete the non-credit course **ME 690 Ph.D. Thesis Seminar** and receive an S grade before the end of their fourth semester. The seminar course is designed to help students develop scientific communication skills and receive feedback on their research from faculty members and peers. The specific requirements for the seminar are announced by the course coordinators. This requirement applies to students who started their graduate studies in the Fall semester of 2016–2017 or later.

1.5. Doctoral Qualifying Exam

The Doctoral Qualifying Exam evaluates the student's knowledge of the basic subjects and concepts of the field and whether the student has the depth of scientific research competence required for doctoral work. To be eligible for the exam, students must have **successfully completed their courses and the seminar course with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00**, and must have passed the METU English Proficiency Exam or another equivalent English exam as determined by the University Senate.

Students must take the Qualifying Exam **no later than the end of their 5th semester**. The exam is held twice a year, in **May** and **November**, and the names of the applicants are submitted by the department to the Graduate School one month before the exam. Students planning to take the Qualifying Exam in a given semester should obtain detailed information from the Doctoral Program Registration Advisor and should:

- add the course with code **5690098** during registration, and
- submit the signed **Doctoral Qualifying Application Form (G5)** and **Doctoral Course Control Form (G8 for M.Sc. and G9 for Ph.D. courses that has been taken before.)** to the department's student affairs by the last day of the registration week.

Format and Evaluation

The exam is evaluated by an examination jury and consists of a **written** and an **oral** part and is conducted entirely in English; only students who succeed in the written part take the oral part. The jury decides by

absolute majority whether the student is “successful” or “unsuccessful”, and the result is reported to the Graduate School within three days.

The jury may require a successful student to take additional courses even if the course load has been completed. These courses are taken with NI status and must be passed with a grade of **at least BB** within the maximum duration; otherwise, the student cannot defend the thesis and is dismissed from the program.

A student may take the Qualifying Exam **at most twice**. Students who fail the exam must take it again in the following semester; **a student who fails a second time is dismissed from the program**. A student who does not attend any part of the exam is considered to have used that exam right and is deemed unsuccessful in that part. The exam schedule will be announced on ODTÜClass under the course code ME 98.

Useful Resources:

- [Doctoral Qualifying Exam Guideline](#)
- For any questions, contact with Ph.D. Qualification Committee Coordinator. (See the [Committees and Advisory Board](#) website.)

1.6. Thesis Monitoring Committee

Students who successfully complete the Doctoral Qualifying Exam must submit the **Thesis Monitoring Committee Assignment Form (FBE Form 29-A = [G4](#) in our department website)** to the Graduate School within **one month**. According to Article 43 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), the Thesis Monitoring Committee (TMC) consists of **three faculty members**: the thesis advisor, one member from the department, and one member from outside the department. If a co-supervisor has been appointed, the co-supervisor may attend the meetings. Committee members may be replaced in later semesters by recommendation of the Department Chair and approval of the Graduate School.

The TMC approves the student’s thesis proposal and monitors the progress of the thesis work throughout the doctoral studies (see Thesis Progress below).

1.7. Thesis Proposal Defense

Students who have successfully completed the Doctoral Qualifying Exam must defend their thesis proposal before the TMC **within six months**. The proposal, presented orally and in English, covers the purpose of the thesis, the research method, and the future work plan. The student must submit a **written proposal report to the TMC members at least 15 days before the meeting**. Students who passed the Qualifying Exam in the previous semester and will defend their thesis proposal in the current semester must add the course with code **5690099** during registration.

The TMC decides by absolute majority to **approve, return for revision, or reject** the proposal. One month is given for revisions, after which the final decision is either approval or rejection. The result is reported to the Graduate School, and [FBE Form 30-B](#) must be submitted within **three days** after the defense.

Students who fail to attend the thesis proposal defense by the specified date without a valid excuse, and who do not submit a request for postponement to the Graduate School, will be considered unsuccessful, and their thesis proposals will be rejected. Reasons such as business trips, lack of information, or forgetfulness may not be considered valid for postponement requests or subsequent applications.

Students whose thesis proposals are rejected may choose a new thesis topic or advisor, in which case a new TMC may be assigned. They must defend a thesis proposal again **within three months** if they continue with the same thesis advisor, or **within six months** if they change their thesis topic and advisor. **Students whose thesis proposals are rejected a second time are dismissed from the program.**

1.8. Doctoral Thesis

The doctoral thesis is the culmination of the program. Through the thesis, students are expected to make an original contribution to science or engineering, apply advanced research methods, critically evaluate their results, and communicate their findings in a scholarly manner.

Thesis Registration

Starting from the semester following the assignment of the thesis supervisor, students must register for thesis work every semester (Article 40). In the Mechanical Engineering Department, doctoral students who have a thesis protocol register for the following non-credit courses **every semester**:

- **ME 600 Ph.D. Thesis**, and
- **ME 9XX Advanced Studies**, where "XX" represents the thesis advisor's code number.

The thesis advisors' codes are shared by the department at the beginning of each semester, before course registration starts.

Thesis Progress Meetings

After the thesis proposal is approved, the TMC meets **twice a year**, once between January and June and once between July and December. The student submits a **written progress report to the TMC members at least one month before each meeting**, summarizing the work completed so far and the work plan for the next semester. The thesis work is graded **S (Satisfactory)** or **U (Unsatisfactory)** by the TMC. At least **three TMC reports** must have been presented before the thesis can be finalized.

Thesis Defense

When the thesis supervisor approves that the thesis work is complete, the student writes the thesis in accordance with the METU Thesis Manual. According to Articles 29 and 45 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), the thesis defense proceeds as follows:

- The supervisor runs the thesis through plagiarism software; the similarity index must be below the limit set by the Graduate School. The plagiarism report, an unbound copy of the thesis, and the jury appointment form are sent to the Graduate School.
- The thesis jury consists of **five faculty members**, including the TMC members and **at least two members from other institutions of higher education**. The thesis supervisor has a right to vote; a co-supervisor may attend without a right to vote.
- The jury convenes within one month of receiving the thesis. The defense is conducted in English, is open to an audience, and consists of a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.
- The jury decides by absolute majority on **approval, revision, or rejection**. A student whose thesis requires revision may be given up to **six months** to defend it again before the same jury. A student whose thesis is rejected, or who does not defend the revised thesis in time or fails it, is dismissed from the program.

1.9. Online Student Portal and Registration

METU provides a variety of online tools that students will use throughout their studies. The Student Portal and ODTÜClass are the two main online platforms that students will use frequently during their graduate studies. Through the Student Portal, students can access important services such as student certification (93), transcripts (92), identification card applications (223), student information (61), and course details (64). ODTÜClass is used for course-related activities, including lecture notes, homework assignments, announcements, and grades. All official notifications are sent to students' METU e-mail addresses, and students are obliged to follow them.

Advisor and Thesis Registration

Advisor assignments are maintained through the Student Information System (SIS) using the MS–PhD Advisor Assignment module (71). The advisor information recorded in SIS is used throughout the graduate program for course registration, thesis enrollment, academic advising, and other administrative processes. Students should complete the advisor assignment process as early as possible and ensure that it accurately reflects their current thesis supervision arrangements.

Program Registration

Students are required to renew their registration every semester during the online registration period announced in the Academic Calendar. Registration consists of paying any tuition or fees due, registering for the semester's courses, and obtaining advisor approval; it is completed only after advisor approval has been received. Students who fail to register are considered unregistered, cannot use student rights, and **the unregistered semester still counts towards the normal and maximum durations**. In addition to their courses, doctoral students should check each semester whether they need to add milestone codes (5690098 for the Qualifying Exam, 5690099 for the Thesis Proposal Defense) and submit the related forms by the last day of the registration week.

Changes made during the Add–Drop Period announced in the academic calendar require a new advisor approval before the registration process is finalized. Students are strongly encouraged to follow the academic calendar carefully, as missing registration deadlines may require additional administrative approval procedures and may delay their studies.

1.10. Studying While Working

The Mechanical Engineering Department recognizes that some students may pursue doctoral studies while employed in industry. Students considering this path should be aware that not all faculty members are willing or able to supervise students who work full-time, since some research groups require regular laboratory work, frequent meetings, or intensive participation in ongoing research activities. It is the responsibility of the student to identify and secure an advisor whose expectations are compatible with their employment situation.

Doctoral research requires sustained effort over many semesters, and the program includes strict milestones such as the Qualifying Exam, the Thesis Proposal Defense, and twice-yearly committee evaluations. Students should ensure that their employer provides sufficient flexibility to attend courses, advisor meetings, seminars, and research group activities, and should discuss a realistic plan with both their advisor and employer at an early stage.

1.11. Performance Assessment

1.11.1. Courses

Courses are evaluated with letter grades from AA to FF; see the coefficients and score intervals in Table 2. Doctoral students must complete each credit-bearing course with a grade of **CB or higher**. The cumulative GPA of the student must be at least **3.00**, and the student must pass the ethics and seminar courses with an "S" (Satisfactory) grade.

Table 2. Letter grades, coefficients and score intervals

Letter Grade	AA	BA	BB	CB	CC	DC	DD	FD	FF
Coefficient	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.00
Score Interval	90–100	85–89	80–84	75–79	70–74	65–69	60–64	50–59	0–49

The following grades are not included in the GPA: **S** (Satisfactory) and **U** (Unsatisfactory) for non-credit courses and thesis work, **P** (Progressing) for ongoing non-credit courses or thesis work. **EX** (Exempt), and **I** (Incomplete) must be converted to a letter grade within the period given in the academic calendar or it automatically becomes FF or U. The grade **NA** (Not Attended), given for failing attendance or course requirements or missing all exams, is counted as FF in the GPA.

1.11.2. Qualifying Exam and Thesis Proposal

The Qualifying Exam and the Thesis Proposal Defense are critical milestones with strict consequences. A student who fails the Qualifying Exam twice, or whose thesis proposal is rejected twice, is dismissed from the program. Students should therefore plan these milestones carefully with their advisor.

1.11.3. Thesis Progress

The research progress of the student is monitored by the thesis advisor and the Thesis Monitoring Committee through the twice-yearly progress meetings. **A student who receives a “U” grade in thesis work twice consecutively or three times in total is dismissed from the program.** Maintaining consistent research performance and open communication with the advisor and the committee members is therefore crucial for successful thesis completion.

1.11.4. Dismissal from the Program

According to Article 27 of the [Graduate Study Regulations](#), a doctoral student is dismissed from the program in any of the following cases:

1. failing to complete the required courses within 4 semesters, or having a cumulative GPA below 3.00 at the end of this period,
2. receiving a “U” grade in thesis work or related courses twice consecutively or three times in total,
3. failing the Doctoral Qualifying Exam twice,
4. failing to pass, with at least BB, the additional courses assigned by the Qualifying Exam jury within the maximum duration,
5. having the thesis proposal rejected twice,
6. having the thesis or the revised thesis rejected,

7. failing to submit the bound copies of the thesis within one month of a successful defense (or within the granted extension), or
8. failing to complete the program within the maximum duration of 12 semesters.

1.12. Students Admitted Before Spring 2011–2012

For students who started the Doctoral Program before the Spring Semester of 2011–2012, the following rules apply instead of the corresponding course rules above:

- Doctoral students must successfully complete at least **8 credit-bearing courses** (with at least a CB grade in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00) within a maximum of 4 consecutive semesters.
- At least 4 of these 8 courses must have the ME code (excluding ME 510 and ME 521).
- Undergraduate courses do not count towards the course load or doctoral credits. Additional courses taken after completing the required minimum course load (8 courses) are not included in the GPA but are shown on the transcript.

Students who are currently enrolled in the Doctoral Program and have not completed their courses may graduate by taking seven courses if they meet the requirements of the new doctoral program course structure.

1.13. Code of Ethics

Middle East Technical University aims to access knowledge and produce, apply and disseminate it for the social, cultural, economic, scientific and technological development of both our society and humanity by carrying out activities of education, research and community services at universal standards, and to educate individuals who are equipped with this knowledge and at the same time who respect knowledge and the rights of others. In accordance with this aim, all members and students of our university adopt the following METU Code of Honor:

“As reliable, responsible and honorable individuals, all members of Middle East Technical University embrace only the success and recognition they deserve, and act with integrity in the use, evaluation and presentation of facts, data and documents.”

1.13.1. Core Values

Joining this program, you will become part of the METU family and a METUnian, or as we say in Turkish, “ODTÜ’lü”; therefore, we expect you to embrace METU’s core values.

Commitment to Campus Heritage

METUnians are devoted to the METU campus as a cultural heritage and stake a claim to it as the campus enables the creation and institutionalization of a common culture with its relatively autonomous location in a human-grown forest, its set-up that collects all its units in a spatial continuity, its spaces and deep-rooted history that have ingrained in social memory, and offers an opportunity for the internalization of an aesthetic sensation with the impact of its unique architecture, landscape, works of art and events that realize within.

Cooperative Individualism

When expressing their individual opinions and values, students, administrative, and academic staff at METU act together, irrespective of their titles, positions, and units, and exhibit a readiness to meet challenges with their libertarian attitudes.

Credibility

METUnians make decisions based on objective data and information, independent of external influences and without allowing conflicts of interest; they fulfill their duties with a sense of responsibility in light of ethical values, scientific criteria, and the rule of law.

High Academic Quality

METUnians embrace the environment which enables the ability to follow scientific developments at an international level and to contribute to such developments, and which motivates the desire for learning and research, the conduct of scientific research and education at high standards in a framework of universal ethical principles, and the community of students and faculty selected, again through high standards, as the fundamental constituents of METU's high academic quality.

Informed Self-Confidence

With an awareness of the boundaries of their knowledge, ability, and authority, METUnians act boldly and resolutely in fulfilling their responsibilities and solving the issues they encounter, and when necessary, self-criticize.

Innovativeness and Leadership

METUnians follow and implement novel methods and approaches in technology, education, research, and management, and develop unique systems, programs, and constructs that serve as models in line with the needs of society and universities.

Investigative Approach

METUnians adopt an investigative/critical approach before making a judgment, while accessing information, conducting scientific research, or when social issues are in question, and come to a conclusion by objectively analyzing cases.

Merit

Embracing the fact that their success and positions are deserved rights as a natural consequence of their competence and perseverance, METUnians safeguard that recruitment and other evaluation processes are conducted on the basis of objective standards and self-efficacy.

Respect for Humanity

While METUnians consider and protect the rights and freedoms of others, they regard diversity as a wealth, oppose any kind of discrimination, and exhibit an unbiased, egalitarian approach based on respect for humanity in all their relations.

Scientific Freedom

METUnians consider the conduct of scientific research and development, as well as education and training activities, without being subject to pressures and influences other than scientific criteria, and the creation of free discussion environments to this end, as the invariable conditions of scientific freedom.

Sensitivity to the Natural Environment

METUnians regard the forest cultivated on the university's land and the ecological diversity within as a value; they attach importance to its conservation and improvement, and, in general, strive for the creation of sensitivity towards the natural environment and the spread of protectionist tendencies.

Social Responsibility

METUnians are responsive to social problems and develop opinions on solutions to them, conduct social responsibility projects, and engage in outreach activities to promote the widespread internalization of science and the scientific approach within society.

1.13.2. Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is intentionally or unintentionally acquiring and using someone else's ideas and opinions and presenting them as if one's own without making a reference to or citing the source (ODTÜ UEAM). METU will not tolerate any act of plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the proper handling of scientific knowledge and the potential consequences of violating these rules. Before a thesis can be defended, its similarity index must be checked with plagiarism software and must remain below the limit set by the Graduate School; if plagiarism is detected in a thesis, disciplinary action is taken against the student (Article 29).

Cheating is described as any attempt or action involving the use of disallowed sources secretly while answering exam questions. Each item below is within the scope of cheating:

1. Peeking at another student's paper during an exam,
2. Peeking at another student's paper during an exam and copying the answers onto one's paper,
3. Talking to other students during the exam,
4. Any kind of sharing of information and sources during an exam (exchanging notes, etc.),
5. Taking exam questions and/or answers out of the exam hall without permission by writing them down or photographing them,
6. Transmitting exam questions to someone else or obtaining answers through cellular phones or any other electronic gadget during the exam,
7. Writing notes concerning the content of the exam on desks and accessories used during the exam, or on one's body or elsewhere,
8. Having someone else do the academic work; doing work to be done individually with other students,
9. Submitting to the course instructor reports/documents such as homework or projects prepared by others as if one's work.