University of Manitoba | Price Faculty of Engineering
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Course Outline

ECE 4600 – Group Design Project

Fall 2026 / Winter 2027

Instructor

- Ian Jeffrey, P.Eng. (he/him)
  E3-504A EITC
  (204) 474-7476
  Ian.Jeffrey@umanitoba.ca

Technical Communication Specialist

- Aidan Topping, MA (she/her)
  SP–332 Stanley Pauley Eng. Bldg.
  (204) 474–8329
  Aidan.Topping@umanitoba.ca

Office Hours
- By appointment

Contact Hours
- 6 credit hours
- Lectures: 18 hours
- Student Presentations: 12 hours
- Presentation Day: 5 hours

Electrical Engineering Prerequisites:
- ENG 2040, ECE 3580, ECE 3610, ECE 3670, ECE 3720, ECE 3780

Computer Engineering Prerequisites:
- ENG 2040, ECE 3700, ECE 3740, ECE 3760, ECE 3780

Course Website:
https://umanitoba.ca/engineering/electrical-and-computer-engineering/capstone

https://umanitoba.ca/umlearn

Course Objectives

Almost all professional engineers find themselves involved in some sort of team work for many aspects of their professional activities. Novel engineering research and design is performed by individuals in the context of projects or goals which require, or will require, the involvement of many other individuals. As such, it is important that engineering students learn to carry out research and design tasks as members of groups of individuals. To achieve this purpose the ECE 4600 Group Design Project course is mandatory in the Electrical and Computer Engineering curricula. The CEAB Accreditation Criteria and Procedures succinctly states the main goal of this course with regard to design content and team work:

> • ***Engineering design*** *integrates mathematics, basic sciences, engineering sciences and complementary studies in order to develop elements, systems and processes to meet specific needs. It is a creative, iterative, and often open-ended process subject to constraints which may be governed by standards or legislation to varying degrees depending upon the discipline. These constraints may relate to economic, health, safety, environmental, social or other pertinent interdisciplinary factors.*
>
> • *The engineering curriculum must culminate in a significant design experience conducted under the professional responsibility of faculty licensed to practise engineering in Canada, preferably in the jurisdiction in which the institution is located. The significant design experiences is based on the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier course work and it preferably gives students an involvement in* ***team work*** *and* ***project management****.*

Course Content

As well as the technical content of each group project, students will learn/exercise the following skills:

- Working in groups to achieve a substantial engineering design project
- Writing a detailed project proposal with realistic specifications
- Effective procedures for the division of labour amongst group members
- Creating and maintaining a schedule with milestones
- Maintaining an up-to-date Engineering Logbook
- Giving written and oral progress reports
- Writing a final engineering group report
- Making an oral group presentation of the project results
- The course will also cover Engineering Law, where students will learn the meaning of law, contracts, expert witness, legal responsibility, and liability.

Copyright Notice

All materials provided in this course are copyright and are provided under the fair dealing provision of the *Canadian Copyright Act*. This material may not be redistributed in any manner without the express written permission of the relevant copyright holder. This includes recording class sessions for personal use and/or uploading any course materials to a website.

Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses and research spaces are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Dene and Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

UM recognizes that the Treaties signed on these lands are a lifelong, enduring relationship, and we are dedicated to upholding their spirit and intent. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and the present. With this understanding, we commit to supporting Indigenous excellence through active Reconciliation, meaningful change, and the creation of an environment where everyone can thrive. Our collaboration with Indigenous communities is grounded in respect and reciprocity and this guides how we move forward as an institution.

Important Dates

- **Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline**
  January 8th, 2027
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
  September 30th, 2026
  No classes or examinations
- **Thanksgiving Day**
  October 12th, 2026
  No classes or examinations
- **Remembrance Day**
  November 11th, 2026
  No classes or examinations
- **Fall Term Break**
  November 9th–13th, 2026
  No classes or examinations
- **Winter Holiday Break**
  December 24th, 2026 – January 4th, 2027
  No classes or examinations
- **Louis Riel Day**
  February 15th, 2027
  No classes or examinations
- **Spring Break**
  February 16th–19th, 2027
  No classes or examinations

Accreditation Details

Accreditation Units

- Mathematics: 0%
- Natural Science: 0%
- Complementary Studies: 0%
- Engineering Science: 0%
- Engineering Design: 100%

Graduate Attributes

KB: A knowledge base for engineering
PA: Problem analysis
IN: Investigation
DE: Design
ET: Use of engineering tools
IT: Individual and team work
CS: Communication skills
PR: Professionalism
IE: Impact of engineering on society/ environment
EE: Ethics and equity
EP: Economics and project management
LL: Life-long learning

Competency Levels

I - Introduced (Introductory)
D - Developed (Intermediate)
A - Applied (Advanced)

References

1. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, Revised and Expanded by Bonnie Birtwhistle Honigsblum. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 5th edition, 1987. (4th edition: UML Engineering, Reserve, LB 2369 T8 1973)
2. Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2nd edition, 1998. (UML Engineering, Reference, PN 147 G444 1998)
3. *IEEE Editorial Style Manual*, https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/your-role-in-article-production/ieee-editorial-style-manual/
4. *The Chicago Manual of Style*, Revised and Expanded, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 13th edition, 1993. (UML Sci/Technology, Reference, Z 253 U69 1993)
5. *The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Toronto; Oxford: Dundurn Press Limited in co-operation with Public Works and Government Services Canada Translation Bureau, 1997. (UML Dafoe, Quick Reference, PN 147 C35 1997).

Evaluation Details

The final course grade is determined by the student's performance on the design project both individually (Individual Mark), and with their group members (Group Mark). Students must pass each component making up the final mark in order to obtain a passing grade in the course. Course instructors may make adjustments to the Group Mark, in order to take into account variations in the degree of technical difficulty between different projects.

	Component	Value
Group Mark	Proposal	5
	3 Design Reviews (5% each)	15
	Final Report	25
	Project Final Summary (submitted with the final report)	5
	Normalization between groups/projects (Course Co-ordinator)*	± 10
Individual Mark	Engineering Record - milestone and final reviews (each 5%)	25
	Proposal / Design Review oral presentation(s)	10
	Final Oral Presentation	15
	Individual group member evaluations by supervisor (zero-sum amongst group members.)*	± 10
* Determined by course coordinator in consultation with the project supervisor(s).		100

Student Absences

Attendance in lectures, tutorials, and laboratories is mandatory. For short-term absences due to illness or other extenuating circumstances of 120 hours (5 days) or less, students are required to complete a *Self-Declaration Form for Brief or Temporary Absence* available on the University website.🔗 This form must be submitted to the course instructor within 48 hours of the absence. (No additional documentation is required.)
Note that students are responsible to complete any missed work and must consult with the instructor to make appropriate arrangements.
For absences longer than 120 hours, students must contact the instructor and ECE Undergraduate Advisor, Tammy Holowachuk (Tammy.Holowachuk@umanitoba.ca) for further instructions.

Grading Scale

Letter	Mark
A+	95–100
A	85–94
B+	80–84
B	70–79
C+	65–69
C	55–64
D	45–54
F	< 45

Note: These boundaries represent a guide for the instructor and class alike. Provided that no individual student is disadvantaged, the instructor may vary any of these boundaries to ensure consistency of grading from year-to-year.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical standards of the Profession of Engineering and evince academic integrity in all their pursuits and activities at the university. As such, in accordance with the *General Academic Regulations on Academic Integrity* 🔗, students are reminded that plagiarism or any other form of cheating in examinations, term tests, assignments, projects, or laboratory reports is subject to serious academic penalty (e.g. suspension or expulsion from the faculty or university). This includes the unauthorized use of AI when preparing course deliverables. A student found guilty of contributing to cheating by another student is also subject to serious academic penalty. Integrity also applies to respecting copyrighted course content, which should not be distributed without the creator's permission. Uploading content for the purpose of transcription or other AI-enabled features is commonly a violation of the copyright holder's rights.

Learning Outcomes

1. Undertake a multi-person engineering project. Aspects include specifications, construction, and implementing - from concept, to design, to final implementation.
2. Planning and documenting an engineering project, including prediction/application of division of labour, scheduling, budgeting, progress report, and logbook.
3. Communicating engineering ideas and work to engineers and society at large, in written reports, oral presentations, and including comparison and evaluation of other group efforts.
4. Understanding of law, as pertaining to the practice of engineering, accountability, and the role and identification of intellectual property and show logged documentation of self/group work.

Expected Competency Levels

Outcome	KB	PA	IN	DE	ET	IT	CS	PR	IE	EE	EP	LL
1	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	A	A
2	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	D	A	A
3	A		A		D	A	A	A			D	A
4	D	I				D	D	A		D	D	A

Evaluation

Students must pass each component making up the final mark in order to obtain a passing grade in the course. Course instructors may make adjustments to the Group Mark, in order to take into account variations in the degree of technical difficulty between different projects.

Component	Value (%)	Method of Feedback	Learning Outcomes Evaluated
Engineering Record	25	F, S	1, 2, 3, 4
Proposal	7.5	F, S	1, 2, 3
Progress Reports	22.5	F, S	1, 2, 3, 4
Final Report	25	S	1, 2, 4
Final Oral Presentation	15	S	1, 2, 3, 4

∗ Method of Feedback: **F** - Formative (written comments and/or oral discussion), **S** - summative (numerical grade)

CEAB Graduate Attributes Assessed

IN.4 – Understands appropriate safe work procedures during experiments or laboratory exercises.

DE.1 – Understands the complexities of an open-ended engineering design problem and defines appropriate objectives and constraints.

DE.2 – Uses an appropriate design process that considers all relevant factors (i.e., health & safety risks; standards; economic, environmental, cultural and societal considerations).

DE.3 – Develops/implements possible solutions to an open-ended design problem, leading to an appropriate recommendation.

DE.4 – Devises and implements a plan to evaluate a proposed design solution.

ET.1C – Uses hand-on tools to complete engineering activities.

IT.1 – Participates equitably in group activities and decision-making in leadership and followership (support) roles.

CS.1 – Designs and produces effective written and graphical engineering documents for specific audiences (i.e., research reports, engineering reports, design documents).

CS.2 – Designs, produces, and delivers effective technical presentations for specific audiences.

PR.1 – Understands the role of the engineering profession in society and responsibility of the Professional Engineer in protection of the public.

EE.1 – Appreciates and articulates ethical considerations, and resolves ethical issues, related to engineering activities.

EP.2 – Understands and applies business practices including project, risk, and change management.

LL.1 – Recognizes limitations of their knowledge and engages in actions to address them.

Requirements and Regulations

- Attendance at lectures and laboratories is essential for successful completion of this course. Students must satisfy each evaluation component in the course to receive a final grade.
- It is the responsibility of each student to contact the instructor in a timely manner if he or she is uncertain about his or her standing in the course and about his or her potential for receiving a failing grade. Students should also familiarize themselves with the University's *General Academic Regulations*, as well as Section 3 of the Faculty of Engineering *Academic Regulations* dealing with incomplete term work, deferred examinations, attendance and withdrawal.
- No programmable devices or systems (such as calculators, PDAs, iPods, iPads, cell phones, wireless communication or data storage devices) are allowed in examinations unless approved by the course instructor.
- Students should be aware that they have access to an extensive range of resources and support organizations. These include Academic Resources, Counselling, Advocacy and Accessibility Offices as well as documentation of key University policies e.g. Academic Integrity, Respectful Behaviour, Examinations and related matters.

Supplemental Resources

Retention of Student Work

Students are advised that copies of their work submitted in completing course requirements (i.e. assignments, laboratory reports, project reports, test papers, examination papers, etc.) may be retained by the instructor and/or the department for the purpose of student assessment and grading, and to support the ongoing accreditation of each Engineering program. This material shall be handled in accordance with the University's *Intellectual Property Policy* and the protection of privacy provisions of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba)*. Students who do not wish to have their work retained must inform the Head of Department, in writing, at their earliest opportunity.