The nuclear engineer applies radiation and energy from nuclear sources to fields such as electricity generation, space craft propulsion, sterilization, food processing, industrial measurements and medical diagnostic and therapeutic treatments. Nuclear engineering is based on the principles of nuclear physics that govern radioactivity, fission and fusion; the production of heat and radiation in those processes; and the interaction of radiation with matter. The function of the nuclear engineer is to apply these principles to a wide range of challenging technological problems.

The Department of Nuclear Engineering offers the Master of Engineering, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The department also offers courses and faculty supervision for students pursuing the Doctor of Engineering degree. Admission to nuclear engineering requires a bachelor’s degree in engineering, chemistry, mathematics, physics or other related areas. Some nuclear physics background is highly desirable. Mathematics through differential equations is required but prefer through Linear Algebra.

The department does not have a foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. degree. Successful completion of a departmental qualifying exam is required.

Research opportunities are varied, with emphasis on nuclear fuels, solid/ion interactions, particle transport, large-scale scientific computing, materials and extreme environments, reactor safety, design of advanced nuclear reactors, thermal hydraulics, computational fluid mechanics, reactor kinetics and control, plutonium disposition, radiation interactions with living tissue, dosimetry and medical radionuclides.

The department offers a wide variety of facilities for instructional and research purposes. These include a well-equipped radiation measurements laboratory, a sub-critical reactor laboratory, access to a supercomputer facility and a University-wide UNIX network, a departmental computer facility including interconnected UNIX and Windows workstations with an extensive software library, a radiochemistry laboratory, thermal hydraulics laboratories, materials research laboratories, an AGN-201M low-power nuclear reactor, five low-energy ion accelerators and a large TRIGA research reactor located at the Texas A&M University Nuclear Science Center. An 88-inch cyclotron is also available for research in nuclear physics and engineering at the Cyclotron Institute.
Masters

• Master of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/engineering/nuclear/ms)

• Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/engineering/nuclear/phd)

Doctoral

• Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/engineering/nuclear/phd)

Certificates

• Nuclear Security Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/engineering/nuclear/nuclear-engineering-certificate)

Courses

NUEN 601 Nuclear Reactor Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Neutron-nucleus interactions; neutron energy spectra; transport and diffusion theory; multigroup approximation; criticality calculations; cross-section processing; buildup and depletion calculations; modern reactor analysis methods and codes.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

NUEN 604 Radiation Interactions and Shielding
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Basic principles of radiation interactions and transport, especially as related to the design of radiation shields. Radiation sources, nuclear reactions, radiation transport, photon interactions, dosimetry, buildup factors and fast neutron shielding.
Prerequisites: NUEN 302 or equivalent; MATH 308; BS in engineering or physical sciences.

NUEN 605 Radiation Detection and Nuclear Materials Measurement
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Laboratory-based course studying the fundamentals of nuclear materials measurements; advanced radiation detection instrumentation with a specific focus on measuring nuclear materials (uranium, plutonium, and other actinides); nuclear material measurements include detection, identification, and quantification of the materials in a fuel cycle facility and in the field.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

NUEN 606 Reactor Analysis and Experimentation
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Perturbation theory; delayed neutrons and reactor kinetics; lattice physics calculations; full core calculations; analysis and measurement of reactivity coefficients; analysis and measurement of flux distribution; analysis and measurement of rod worths; critical and subcritical experiments.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

NUEN 608 Fast Spectrum Systems and Applications
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Design and analysis of nuclear systems and nuclear fuel cycles; data, methods and tools for advanced nuclear system modeling; systems analysis; sustainable development of nuclear energy, fast spectrum systems; partitioning & transmutation; hybrid systems; Advanced Fuel cycle program; Generation IV fast reactors; design aspects of Advanced Fast Reactors: neutronics; heat removal; safety; materials; systems.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

NUEN 609 Nuclear Reactor Safety
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Analysis and evaluation applied to reactor design for accident prevention and mitigation; protective systems and their reliability, containment design, emergency cooling requirements, reactivity excursions and the atmospheric dispersion of radioactive material; safety problems associated with light-water power reactors and proposed fast reactor systems.
Prerequisites: NUEN 601 and NUEN 623 or approval of instructor.

NUEN 610 Design of Nuclear Reactors
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.
Application of fundamentals of nuclear physics and reactor theory with engineering fundamentals to design of nuclear reactors.
Prerequisites: NUEN 602 or registration therein; NUEN 410 or approval of instructor.

NUEN 611 Radiation Detection and Measurement
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Interactions of radiation with matter behavior of various nuclear radiation detectors studied both theoretically and experimentally in the laboratory; properties of radionuclides useful to industry and medicine considered and evaluated from an engineering point of view.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification, enrollment in NUEN 613 or instructor approval.

NUEN 612 Radiological Safety and Hazards Evaluation
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
State and Federal regulations concerning radioactive materials; radiation safety as applied to accelerators, nuclear reactors, medical therapy and diagnostic devices, and radioactive byproducts; rigorous methods of analysis applied to computation of biological radiation dose and dose rates from various sources and geometries; radiation effects on physical systems.
Prerequisites: NUEN 613; MATH 308.

NUEN 613 Principles of Radiological Safety
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Rigorous mathematical and physical approach to various aspects of radiological safety; derivation of equations involving radiation absorption, radiation dosimetry and calculations of radiation dose due to internal emitters; mathematical models relating to radionuclide concentrations in tumor, normal tissue, air or water to whole body dose.
Prerequisite: NUEN 409.

NUEN 614 Probabilistic Risk Assessment Techniques in Nuclear Systems
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Current and proposed techniques for determining the reliability of nuclear plant systems and the risk associated with the operation of these advanced technology systems.
Prerequisites: NUEN 612 and NUEN 613.
NUEN 615 Theory and Applications of Microdosimetry
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theory, measurement, and calculation of microdosimeric spectra; practical applications of microdosimetry in the determination of absorbed dose distribution within tissue, the statistical fluctuations of absorbed dose at the cellular and subcellular level, and the impact of microdosimetry on radiation protection guidelines.
Prerequisite: NUEN 613.

NUEN 618 Multiphysics Computations in Nuclear Science and Engineering
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Tightly coupled multiphysics simulation techniques and application to typical problems arising in nuclear science and engineering (reactor dynamics and safety transients, conjugate heat transfer, radiative transfer, fluid structure interaction).
Prerequisites: MATH 602 and NUEN 606.

NUEN 623 Nuclear Engineering Heat Transfer and Fluid Flow
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Thermodynamics and unified treatment of mass, momentum and energy transport with applications to nuclear engineering systems; velocity and temperature distributions in laminar and turbulent flow; flow and thermal stability.
Prerequisites: MEEN 334, MATH 346 or MATH 461 and MATH 601 or registration therein or approval of instructor.

NUEN 624 Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics and Stress Analysis
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Unified treatment of advanced heat transport in solids and fluids including boiling phenomena; thermal stress phenomena with applications to nuclear sources; isothermal elasticity; thermoelasticity; viscoelasticity; plasticity.
Prerequisites: NUEN 623 or equivalent; MATH 601 or registration therein.

NUEN 625 Neutron Transport Theory
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.
Analytical treatment of neutron transport theory; solution methods of integrodifferential and integral Boltzmann equations, adjoints; energy dependent methods using singular eigenfunctions, variational methods, orthogonal polynomials and thermalization; current analytical techniques in transport theory.
Prerequisites: NUEN 606; MATH 602.

NUEN 627 Radiation-Hydrodynamics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Coupling of the Euler equations of compressible fluid dynamics with the equations of thermal radiation transport; the equilibrium-diffusion limit; radiative shock waves; and numerical methods for one-dimensional calculations.
Prerequisite: MATH 602.

NUEN 629 Numerical Methods in Reactor Analysis
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.
Solution of variable dimension multigroup discrete representation problems including Sn, Pn, An, variational and Monte Carlo techniques; techniques in reactor kinetics, fuel cycle and optimization.
Prerequisites: NUEN 430; NUEN 606 or equivalent.

NUEN 630 Monte Carlo Methods for Particle Transport
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Principles of Monte Carlo method; random number generation; random variable sampling; particle tracking; statistical error estimation; ACE format cross-sections; introduction to MCNP code; MCNP applied to radiation shielding, criticality safety, reactor physics and detector modeling; MCNP output analysis, statistical tests, and tallying procedures; variance reduction techniques; Monte Carlo algorithm development.
Prerequisites: Approval of Instructor, MCNP/MCNPX code single user license from RSICC, ORNL, USA.

NUEN 633 Radiation Measurements and Calibrations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Measurement of radiation dose and protection quantities in realistic radiation fields will be studied; specific characteristics of radiation sources will be discussed in the context of accurate measurement and radiation protection; examples from a wide variety of radiation environments will illustrate radiation measurement requirements for medical, industrial, and research sources.
Prerequisite: NUEN 613.

NUEN 640 Severe Accident Analysis of Nuclear Facilities
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Severe accident phenomena from initial fuel heat up to the source term; complexity of accident progression and safety issues; severe accident codes with respect to the modeling philosophy, techniques, assumptions and limitations; development of skills in analysis methodologies/techniques.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification in the college of engineering or approval of instructor.

NUEN 644/MEEN 644 Numerical Heat Transfer and Fluid Flow
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Convection-diffusion, up-wind, exponential, exact solution, power law schemes, false diffusion; staggered grid concept; development of simple and simpler algorithms; periodically developed flows.
Prerequisites: NUEN 430 or equivalent; MEEN 357 and MEEN 461.
Cross Listing: MEEN 644/NUEN 644.

NUEN 646 Fundamentals of Space Life Sciences
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Integrates nutrition, physiology, and radiation biology to define major biological problems in long duration space flight; provide an overview of the problems of bone loss, muscle wasting, and radiation-enhanced carcinogenesis along with potential countermeasures; focus on nutritional interventions and exercise protocols.
Cross Listing: NUTR 646 and KINE 646.

NUEN 647 Uncertainty Quantification in Nuclear Science and Engineering
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Predictions of computer codes when the inputs to those codes are uncertain; demonstration on building confidence in computer models and making a qualified prediction.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

NUEN 650 Nuclear Nonproliferation and Arms Control
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Studies the political and technological issues associated with nuclear proliferation and arms control; history of arms control treaties and verification, proliferation resistance in the nuclear fuel cycle, international and domestic safeguards, material accountancy, containment and surveillance, and physical protection.
Prerequisite: NUEN 601.
NUEN 651 Nuclear Fuel Cycles and Nuclear Material Safeguards
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Study of civilian and military nuclear fuel cycles and application of nuclear material safeguards to secure these cycles; topics include the physics of the fundamental fuel cycle components; the application of nuclear material measurements systems; and the technical and legal basis for material protection, control and accounting systems.
Prerequisite: NUEN 601 or equivalent.

NUEN 656 Critical Analysis of Nuclear Security Data
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.
A project-based course studying the analysis of nuclear security events, threats, and data; assigned project requires an analysis of data for a hypothetical case of interest to U.S. national security; focuses on detailed technical analysis using diverse datasets and country/organization profiles.
Prerequisites: NUEN 650, NUEN 601 or equivalent.

NUEN 657 Emergency Response Dose Assessment
Credits 2. 2 Lecture Hours.
The U.S. Nuclear Emergency Response program; assessment of radiation doses to the public and emergency responders following an event; topics include U.S. response teams, radiocology, U.S. guidelines, dose assessment techniques and useful software packages; capstone exercise simulating a radiological release.
Prerequisites: NUEN 309/SENG 309 or equivalent; Graduate classification.

NUEN 661 Nuclear Fuel Performance
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Reviews basic phenomena that govern nuclear fuel performance; includes structural changes and rate controlling phenomena for oxide and metal fuels as well as cladding and other structural materials.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or consent of the instructor.

NUEN 662 Nuclear Materials Under Extreme Conditions
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Fundamentals of materials degradation under reactor environments; linkage from radiation induced microstructure changes to materials thermal properties, mechanical properties, corrosion resistance, swelling, creep, and overall integrities; materials issues of nuclear fuel, cladding, out-core structural components and waste storage managements.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

NUEN 663 Fundamentals of Ion Solid Interactions
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Fundamentals of neutron and ion interactions with solid state materials, and subsequent damage cascade formation, defect clustering, and structural changes; electronic stopping and nuclear stopping mechanisms based on classic and quantum mechanics treatments; development of basic modeling capabilities to carry out simulations for relevant research topics.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

NUEN 669/INTA 669 Nuclear Terrorism Threat Assessment and Analysis
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Study the manner in which we conduct threat assessments and the analysis of non-state actors in the fields of nuclear and radiological security; examine the history of threats and security issues in an effort to better understand terrorist groupings, their motivations and attack methodologies.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
Cross Listing: INTA 669/NUEN 669.

NUEN 670 Introduction to Radiotherapy Physics
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.
Examination of radiation physics necessary for understanding modern radiation therapy; perform theoretical foundations of physical dose calculation for megavoltage energy photons and electrons, biological predictions of therapy outcomes, and brachytherapy; methods of modeling and implementing radiation therapy treatment includes planning, evaluation, and delivery; emphasis on intensity modulated radiation therapy and TomoTherapy.
Prerequisites: Graduate classification; NUEN 613 or approval from academic advisor.

NUEN 671/ BMEN 672 Introduction to Diagnostic Radiology Physics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Concepts of radiation physics used in diagnostic radiology; introduction to the theory behind the different imaging modalities as it relates to mammography, planar X-ray imaging, computed tomography (CT), single photon emission tomography (SPECT), and positron emission tomography (PET).
Prerequisite: NUEN 611, NUEN 613 or approval of academic advisor.
Cross Listing: BMEN 672/NUEN 672.

NUEN 673 Radiation Biology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Response of biological systems to ionizing radiation at the molecular, cellular, tissue and organismal levels; effects of different doses and dose rates with emphasis on the underlying mechanisms relevant to accidental, environmental and medical exposures.
Prerequisite: NUEN 409 or graduate classification.

NUEN 674 Radiation Carcinogenesis
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines the experimental models and mathematical simulations for the investigation of radiation-induced cancer, the current scientific literature concerning the intersection of risk analysis and the interpretation of disparate data from varied biological systems.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

NUEN 675 Internal Dose Techniques
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Current and proposed techniques for assessing the absorbed dose due to internally deposited radionuclides; techniques recommended for international and national bodies, as well as those used in nuclear medicine.
Prerequisites: NUEN 612 and NUEN 613.

NUEN 676 Radiation Physics Instrumentation
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 6 Lab Hours.
Advanced course in instrumentation intended for radiation professionals and researchers; provides an in-depth knowledge of the components of radiation monitoring and measurement systems; includes quality assurance and quality control concepts for the safe and efficient use of radiation sources.
Prerequisite: NUEN 402.

NUEN 677/MEEN 677 Aerosol Science
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Multidisciplinary survey of methods for describing aerosol particles and systems: gas kinetics and transport theory, formation and growth thermodynamics, electrical properties, coagulation, light scattering; selected topics from current literature.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification in engineering or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: MEEN 677/NUEN 677.
NUEN 678 Waste Management in the Nuclear Industry  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Management of radioactive, hazardous and mixed waste generated by all segments of the nuclear fuel cycle and users of radioisotopes; includes treatment, storage and disposal technologies and the political and socioeconomic issues; evaluation of current practices and regulations using a holistic approach.  
Prerequisites: Graduate classification and approval of instructor.

NUEN 681 Seminar  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Topics in nuclear engineering and health/medical physics not covered by formal coursework; whenever possible, guest lectures will discuss topics which they have personally investigated.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

NUEN 684 Professional Internship  
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 6 Other Hours.  
Training under the supervision of practitioners in settings appropriate to the student's professional objectives.  
Prerequisites: Approval of chair of student's advisory committee and department head.

NUEN 685 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 12. 1 to 12 Other Hours.  
Offered to enable students to undertake and complete limited investigations not within their thesis research and not covered by any other courses in curriculum.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

NUEN 689 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 4 Lab Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of nuclear engineering. May be repeated for credit.  
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

NUEN 691 Research  
Credits 1 to 23. 1 to 23 Other Hours.  
Research toward thesis or dissertation.