Final Year Projects - Mechanical Engineering

Eligibility

You are eligible to commence your Final Year Project if you meet the following condition at the start of Semester 1 2015 (i.e., assuming that you pass all units in the current semester):

(i) A minimum of 600 Credits together with all Second Year Units passed and a maximum of one (1) Third Year Unit outstanding.

Under some circumstances it may be possible to start the Final Year Project with 575 Credits together with all Second Year Units passed and a maximum of one (1) Third Year Unit outstanding. However, this is at the discretion of a Course Coordinator and will be determined on a case by case basis.

Note that under no circumstances will you be allowed to commence the Final Year Project if you have less than 575 Credits or any Second Year Units outstanding or more than one (1) Third Year Unit outstanding at the beginning of Semester 1 2015.

Picking a Project

Let us assume that you meet the eligibility criteria mentioned above. The next step is to pick a project title and supervisor. Some staff have supplied project titles which are shown on the following webpage:


Other staff have the message "Contact staff member for information" next to their name and this signifies that you need to contact the staff member and discuss possible project titles with them. Clicking on the name of each staff member on the following webpage:

http://mech.eng.curtin.edu.au/people/

will show information about their office location and other contact details.

If you unsure which staff member(s) to contact then please consider first deciding in which area(s) of mechanical engineering you wish to carry out your project and then click on the name of each staff member (at the page mentioned above) to see whether their research areas align with your area(s) of preference.

You are allowed to choose an industry-based project provided that you can find a department staff member willing to act as the project supervisor. Please note that a staff member within the Department of Mechanical Engineering must be listed as the main supervisor of the project.

If you expect that issues of Intellectual Property may arise with your Final Year Project then you should contact the Office of Research and Development at Curtin University in case a contract needs to be devised between the university and yourself and/or an external party - this should be done before the start of the project.
Submitting a Project Nomination Form

Once you have met with prospective staff supervisors and decided upon a suitable project title then you will need to fill out the "Nomination Form" (available from the webpage mentioned above) and submit the form to Dr Ian Davies (after having it signed by your supervisor) before the following deadline:

**Deadline: 4pm on Friday 7th November (Final day of semester)**
**Location: My office (Building 204, Room 431)**

Please note that the Department only guarantees to provide a project and staff supervisor until this date. If you miss that deadline then you may be unable to find a suitable project and/or supervisor and may have the start of your Final Year Project delayed until the beginning of Semester 2 2015.

**Additional Information**

The project itself is divided into two separate units as follows:

Semester 1 2015 - Mechanical Project 491
Semester 2 2015 - Mechanical Project 494

Some additional information concerning the Final Year Project (subject to change):

(i) You will be expected to spend approximately 1 day per week on your project.

(ii) There is a budget of $400 for each project to spend on materials, research items, etc. Your supervisor and the Head of Department must approve all items before purchase - to do this you will need to ask your supervisor about filling out a Request To Order (RTO) Form.

(iii) You will be expected to meet with your supervisor either 30 minutes every week or 1 hour every fortnight. It is your responsibility to contact the supervisor and arrange the meeting.

(iv) You will be expected to fill out a Log Book during each week of semester detailing the progress of the project and have this signed each week or fortnight by your supervisor in the meeting.

(v) Towards the end of Semester 1 2015 you will need to submit a fifteen to twenty page progress report detailing what has been achieved during the semester. Your supervisor will award you a mark based on the report and your progress during the semester. With this in mind, you are strongly recommended to occasionally ask your supervisor how you are performing with the project so that you have an idea in advance of whether you will pass or fail the unit.

(vi) Should you fail the Mechanical Project 491 unit then you will need to start a new Mechanical Project 491 unit with a new project and different supervisor.

(vii) Should you pass the Mechanical Project 491 unit at the end of Semester 1 2015 then you will be expected to continue Mechanical Project 494 in Semester 2 2015. Requests for a semester break between the end of Mechanical Project 491 and the start of Mechanical Project 494 will only be considered under extenuating circumstances and then only due to reasons beyond the control of the student, e.g., illness.
(viii) Towards the end of **Semester 2 2015** you will be required to submit two (2) copies of a Final Year Project Thesis of typical length 80-150 pages that will be marked by your project supervisor and a Co-Examiner usually selected from the Department Staff. Your project supervisor will also mark you on other factors such as general attitude, time management, professionalism, engineering competence, *etc*. In addition, you will need to submit a two (2) page Extended Abstract and prepare and present a fifteen (15) minute PowerPoint presentation - this normally takes place during the second week of exams.

(ix) Should you fail the Mechanical Project 494 unit then you will be required to complete both Mechanical Project 491 and Mechanical Project 494 again with a new project.

(x) Several awards are available for students completing outstanding Final Year Projects.

**Further Information**

If you require any further information then please contact either of the following Unit Coordinators for Mechanical Project 491 and Mechanical Project 494:

Dr Ian Davies  
Room: 204:431  
E-mail: i.davies@curtin.edu.au  
Telephone: 08 9266 7578

Dr Nazrul Islam  
Room: 204:421  
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