

Students,

This file serves as a quick introduction/primer about the function of the ECE Graduate Student Association (ECE GSA). The \$25 fee that you pay every semester gets collected by the campus-wide student government: Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). Forty percent of that money is sent back directly to ECE GSA to be used by the students in the department. The elected officers of ECE GSA largely determine the best use of this money, which has always been for food events and more recently has grown to include professional development activities, such as the seminar series last fall and some of the Student Paper Competition this winter. In short, every graduate student in ECE is automatically a member of ECE GSA and has the opportunity to determine its direction.

If you would like to get involved in the leadership of ECE GSA there are two primary ways: run in the annual elections, or participate as a volunteer member on projects of interest to you. Some of the projects ECE GSA works on are the career development seminar series, networking/food events, supporting collaborations with other professional societies, and our signature student paper competition. Also, ECE GSA leadership is the elected voice of the students to the campus community at-large. One member of the leadership team attends monthly GPSA meetings to represent ECE students, and ECE GSA leaders are often asked for help from departmental and school leadership in understanding student concerns. If there is a project you wish to work on or develop we are more than welcome to any help.

Specific ways you can get involved are as follows. ECE GSA has four elected leaders, which are chosen at annual elections. These are the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. You may also work with ECE GSA on projects of interest to you. Our meetings are held in room 333 according to everyone's schedule. If you do not wish to participate, but have a specific concern you may approach any of the leaders of ECE GSA and we will do our best to navigate the channels of UNM for you. In the past, we have assisted students in understanding the process for applying for travel and research grants, participated in discussions on differential tuition, and worked to provide a healthy relationship with departmental leadership.

The remaining events for the semester include the student paper competition (just finished), further upgrades to room 333 (which will now remain open), officer elections (please stay tuned for more information). Ongoing work includes fostering a partnership with the IEEE Industry Application Society for conference travel funding and the IEEE UNM chapter to create a cohesive professional student organization in partnership with the undergraduates. There are many avenues available to contact ECE GSA: email (ecegsa@unm.edu), website (ece-gsa.unm.edu), and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) at the handle [@gsa_ece](https://www.instagram.com/gsa_ece).

Thank you,
ECE GSA Leadership Team