



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Materials Science and Engineering MSMSE Graduate Program Handbook

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Materials Science and Engineering MSMSE

Together, the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) and your graduate program handbook should serve as your main guide throughout your graduate career. The Graduate Student Handbook includes university information, policies, requirements and guidance for all graduate students. Your program handbook describes the details about graduate study and requirements in your specific program. While both of these handbooks are wonderful resources, know that you are always welcome to talk with faculty and staff in your program and in the Graduate College.

The central activities and missions of a university rest upon the fundamental assumption that all members of the university community conduct themselves in accordance with a strict adherence to academic and scholarly integrity. As a graduate student and member of the university community, you are expected to display the highest standards of academic and personal integrity.

Here are some resources to help you better understand your responsibilities:

- [Academic Honesty](#)
- [Academic Integrity Training](#) - Open to all graduate students at no cost
- [Plagiarism](#)

Introduction

Course Requirements

The Materials Science and Engineering Master's program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. The program requires 15 hours of required courses exclusive of independent study and a minimum of 15 hours of elective course work. Within these 30 hours, 24 must be considered formal coursework.

EMA 6908 Independent Study is now considered "formal coursework". A detailed (one page) syllabus must be submitted to the Academic Affairs office for the College of Engineering, ENG 1- Room 107, with the Special Registration Access Form. The CECS Academic Affairs Office has instituted an approval/review process for all Independent Study syllabi.

Unless a completed (signed) plan of study itemizing the study plan is approved prior to the end of the 9 credit hours (typically the first semester) of studies, the program coordinator may choose not to accept any part of the course work (including independent studies and/or directed research) taken by the student on a plan of study subsequently submitted by the student.

Materials Science and Engineering Program Policies

The primary objective of Master's work is to educate students to a point of excellence in conducting, disseminating, and applying scholarly research, with the explicit goal of making original, substantive contributions to their degree discipline. The advanced nature of Master's education requires student participation, debate, evaluation, and discussion of diverse ideas and approaches. Careful analysis, independent research, and greater understanding and application of ideas are also expected.

The Master's degree program requirements will consist of required and elective courses. It may also consist of seminars, directed research, independent study, and thesis research.

- Each Master's plan of study will include a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate credit beyond the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits must be taken as part of an approved graduate plan of study.

- All graduate credit in a Master’s program must be at 5000 level or higher.
- At least one-half of the credit hours used to meet program requirements must be in 6000-level courses, including the allowed number of research and thesis hours.
- Only graduate-level credit with a grade of "C-" or higher may be used to satisfy degree requirements.
- A university-wide minimum of at least 6 hours of thesis credits is required for all thesis Master’s programs. Students choosing the non-thesis option must take **EML 6085 Research Methods in MMAE** to establish their ability to integrate their learning and to demonstrate independent thinking. Alternatively, non-thesis student may take **EMA 6918 Directed Research**, in which case the instructor for that is required to provide a letter confirming the student’s integration of knowledge and independent thinking.

Curriculum

Please visit the [Graduate Catalog](#) to see the current curriculum for our program.

Timeline for Completion

Optional Timeline for Students with Materials Background

1st Year of Graduate Training

Fall	Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMA 5106 Metallurgical Thermodynamics (3 hours) • EMA 6126 Physical Metallurgy (3 hours) • Elective (3 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMA 5106 Metallurgical Thermodynamics (3 hours) • EMA 6126 Physical Metallurgy (3 hours) • Elective (3 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electives, optional
Semester Total: 9 credit hours	Semester Total: 9 credit hours	

2nd Year of Graduate Training

Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMA 6058 Research Methods in MMAE or EMA 6918 Directed Research (Non-thesis Option) (3 hours) • EMA 6971 Thesis (3 hours) • Electives (3 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electives or EMA 6971 Thesis (3 hours)
Semester Total: 9 credit hours	Semester Total: 3 credit hours

Optional Timeline for Students without a Materials Background

1 Year of Graduate Training

Fall	Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMA 5104 Intermediate Structure and Properties of Materials (3 hours)• EMA 5106 Metallurgical Thermodynamics (3 hours)• Elective (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMA 6626 Mechanical Behavior of Materials (3 hours)• EMA 5317 Materials Kinetics (3 hours)• Elective (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electives, Optional
Semester Total: 9 credit hours	Semester Total: 9 credit hours	

2 Year of Graduate Training

Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMA 6126 Physical Metallurgy (3 hours)• EML 6085 Research Methods in MMAE or EMA 6918 Directed Research (Non-thesis Option) (3 hours)• EMA 6871 Thesis (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electives or EMA 6971 Thesis (3 hours)
Semester Total: 9 credit hours	Semester Total: 3 credit hours

Thesis Requirements

A Masters student's thesis may be among their biggest academic efforts that they ever make. It is highly recommended for a student to discuss format and content with their advisor, and to peruse other theses or dissertations before getting started.

University Dissertation Requirements

A thesis is optional for this program; the following information is intended for those choosing to complete a thesis.

The College of Graduate Studies [Thesis and Dissertation page](#) contains information on the university's requirements for dissertation formatting, format review, defenses, final submission, and more. A step-by-step completion guide is also available on [Thesis and Dissertation Services](#) Site.

All university deadlines are listed in the [Academic Calendar](#). Your program or college may have other earlier deadlines; please check with your program and college staff for additional deadlines.

The following requirements must be met by dissertation students in their final term:

- Submit a properly formatted file for initial format review by the format review deadline
- Submit the Thesis and Dissertation Release Option form well before the defense
- Defend by the defense deadline
- Receive format approval (if not granted upon initial review)
- Submit signed approval form by final submission deadline
- Submit final dissertation document by final submission deadline

Students must format their dissertation according to the standards outlined in [Thesis and Dissertation Webcourse](#). Formatting questions or issues can be submitted to the Format Help page in the [Thesis and Dissertation Services](#) site. Format reviews and final submission must be completed in the [Thesis and Dissertation Services](#) site. The Dissertation Approval Form is also available in the Thesis and Dissertation Services site.

The College of Graduate Studies offers several thesis and dissertation [Workshops](#) each term. Students are highly encouraged to attend these workshops early in the dissertation process to fully understand the above policies and procedures.

The College of Graduate Studies thesis and dissertation office is best reached by email at editor@ucf.edu.

Thesis Advisory Committee Membership (For Thesis Option)

Masters students must have a Thesis Advisory Committee prior to registering for Thesis hours. The Committee must consist of a minimum of three members: two must be faculty members of the graduate program faculty approved to direct thesis, one of whom is qualified to serve as Chair, and one must be at large from outside the degree program.

The “outside” faculty member of a committee must be approved by the Graduate College and these faculty are listed as either Full or Associate Graduate Faculty or as a Graduate Faculty Scholar in the Graduate Catalog. The committee Chair must be a member of the graduate faculty approved to direct thesis or dissertations for the MSE program. Adjunct faculty and off-campus experts that are Graduate Faculty Scholars may serve as the outside-the-program person in the committee. The College of Graduate Studies reserves the right to review appointments to advisory committees, place a representative on any advisory committee, or appoint a co-adviser. Associate and Full Graduate Faculty members must form the majority of any given committee. Additional information regarding the criteria for serving as a member, co-chair, or chair of a Dissertation Advisory Committee is provided in the updated [Graduate Faculty policy](#).

Committee membership must be approved by the Program Coordinator and submitted to the College of Graduate Studies. All members must have expertise in fields related to the dissertation topic. The UCF College of Graduate Studies reserves the right to review appointments to a thesis advisory committee, place a representative on any thesis advisory committee, or appoint a co-chair. A student may request a change in membership of the thesis advisory committee with the approval of the program director and re-submission to the College of Graduate Studies.

In unusual cases, with approval from the department Chair, a professor may serve as a co-chair of a committee. Joint faculty members may serve as committee chairs, but off-campus experts and adjunct faculty may not serve as committee chairs.

All members vote on acceptance or rejection of the final thesis. The final thesis must be approved by a majority of the advisory committee.

Responsibilities of Members of Masters Advisory Committees

See [Graduate Faculty policy](#).

Responsibilities of all members of Masters advisory committees:

- To meet at regular intervals at least once per year to: (i) discuss and approve the proposed thesis research and the plans for carrying out research; and (ii) to assess progress toward the thesis and give the student a yearly letter of evaluation in addition to S/U grades awarded for 6971 courses.
- To review Turnitin.com results from thesis submittals.
- To participate in the thesis defense to assure: (i) that the dissertation is acceptable as original research and a contribution to the discipline; and (ii) that it meets the standards of the university. No

fewer than three faculty members, including all members of the advisory committee, shall be present with the student during the examination. Only members of the advisory committee may sign the thesis, and a majority must approve of the thesis. The thesis defense must be conducted on campus, unless there is an accepted joint degree program with another university that specifies a different arrangement that has been approved by the university.

Responsibilities of the chair (and co-chair) of Masters advisory committees:

- In cooperation with the program director, to review the plan of study, the research, and all other degree requirements by meeting with the student early in the program and immediately after appointment as chair/co-chair.
- To suggest to the student possible committee members who could serve on the advisory committee. To establish timelines for the research, set expectations, and evaluate the student progress based upon these.
- To meet at regular intervals with the student to discuss the proposed thesis research and the plans for carrying out research.
- To review in a timely manner all written materials submitted by students and offer suggested revisions.
- To meet once per year with the student and the thesis advisory committee to assess progress towards the thesis and give the student a yearly letter of evaluation in addition to S/U grades awarded for 7980 courses. The chair shall write this letter and send it to the program director and the College of Graduate Studies after consultation with the advisory committee.
- To coordinate the ongoing efforts of the committee as its chair, and to participate fully in the responsibilities of the committee members as a member of the advisory committee.
- To chair the thesis defense, ensure its proper conduct as described above, and submit to the program director for the student's records all necessary grades, forms and other materials.

Responsibilities of the external committee member of a dissertation advisory committee:

- External committee membership will entail the full responsibilities of other committee membership
- External committee members should bring specific disciplinary knowledge or research expertise to the committee.
- External committee members may be appointed from outside of the university or outside of the college (if the committee is for a college-wide program). The external committee member may not be affiliated in any way with the department of the committee, such as through joint or secondary joint appointments.
- External members must be approved as Graduate Faculty Scholars prior to inclusion in thesis advisory committee membership.

It is the responsibility of the student, with agreement from their committee members, to schedule the date, time and location of their thesis defense. There are room reservation programs available online, which can be used to schedule a classroom and/or conference room on campus. The student can seek the assistance of the MSE program assistant if they need assistance with scheduling the room facilities.

Enrollment in Thesis Hours

The university requires all Master's students to take a minimum of 6 credit hours of Master's thesis hours. There is also current MSE program policy. Thesis research is considered to be a full-time effort, and enrollment in at least three Master's thesis (EMA 6971) credit hours constitutes full-time graduate status. Masters students who have begun taking Master's thesis hours (EMA 6971) must enroll in at least three dissertation hours each semester (including summers, without skipping a semester) and continue doing so until they complete the dissertation and graduate. Students wishing to enroll in part-time hours should consult with their adviser.

Thesis Defense

Scheduling a Room

It is the student's responsibility to schedule a room for their Masters defense. They must make sure that it can seat all who may be in attendance and is equipped with all the necessary media capabilities that would be required for their defense presentation. [Room reservation](#) assistance is available online through the College of Engineering. Students may also speak with the program assistant if needing guidance regarding choosing a room for their defense. Students must make sure to reserve the room well in advance of their defense date to ensure a quality location.

Defense Announcement

All students, upon agreement and approval from the dissertation chair/faculty advisor, must supply a defense announcement TWO WEEKS prior to their defense date, as it will be posted on the College of Engineering website. The defense announcement should include the following information: date, time, location, committee member names, dissertation title, abstract and that the defense is open to the public. Below is an example of a well-formatted defense announcement.

Committee Members Present

To participate in the thesis prospectus examination, the entire committee shall be simultaneously present for the oral part of the examination and subsequent meeting of the committee. In the event of unusual circumstances, any distance participation by a committee member (i.e. video conferencing) requires prior approval of the program coordinator and the Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The defense shall be conducted on campus, unless there is an accepted joint degree program with another university that specifies a different arrangement that has been approved by the university.

Paperwork/Forms Completed During Defense

Prior to every defense, the program assistant will organize all necessary paperwork that needs to be completed by committee chair and all other committee members during the student's Master's defense. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up these forms, have them filled out by the appropriate members, and submitted back to the program assistant for filing.

Graduate Research

For specific services or resources provided by the academic program, please visit the [Research webpage](#) on the [Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering website](#).

Research is a vital part of graduate education, particularly for Master's students. The development of research skills and the practice of good research ethics begin with graduate study. Faculty serve a crucial role and are the primary source for teaching research skills and modeling research ethics.

- In the Materials Science and Engineering program, much of our research is carried out as a part of contracted sponsored research. Faculty obtain sponsored research from many different government agencies, and/or industry, and thus commit the university to doing certain research tasks. Students are typically hired to help the faculty conduct the research, and as such are contractually obligated to give their "best efforts" to accomplishing the research tasks. In most cases, students who are supported on contracts may use the results of their work as the basis for their thesis or dissertation.
- It is important to be honest and ethical in conducting research as well as in taking classes. Report all data factually and completely. Please see the Graduate Catalog for policies pertaining to [Academic Behavior Standards](#).

- Patents and inventions may arise from the faculty and graduate student research. UCF has clear guidelines and a [Patent Invention Policy](#) detailed in the UCF Graduate Catalog.
- There are specific Laboratory Safety Procedures that must be followed by each student working in a lab. It is the program policy that each student is responsible for knowing and following the Safety Procedures. Please see the laboratories manager and/or your faculty advisor to get a copy of the Safety Procedures for the appropriate lab.

Financial Support

Financial support is a major concern for graduate students, especially since many rely on financial support from the University to pursue graduate study. In combination, the College, the University, and the Department provide financial assistance to graduate students in several ways: (1) fellowships and scholarships are available to academically outstanding students, (2) Graduate Teaching Assistantships – GTA's (for grading or for lab teaching) are available in limited numbers, (3) Graduate Research Assistantships – GRA's (for assisting faculty with research) are more widely available in the MSE program and depend on the research funding available to individual faculty.

Assistantships

All students are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA in their Plan of Study. They must not make any more than two 'C' grades, and those must be balanced with two 'A' grades. Students on contract are expected to work 10 to 20 hours per week on their assigned tasks (whether it be grading, lab teaching, or research), while they are maintaining satisfactory progress in completing their academic courses.

Students must meet their obligations to continue to receive their financial support. If the students are on time cards, the cards must be filled out properly and filed on time. If they are on contract, they must maintain satisfactory work as defined by their supervisor. Also, being on contract requires that the students register for the proper number of hours of classes in time to process tuition waivers and to meet other academic requirements.

The duration of financial support may vary from one academic year at a time to up to a 4-year renewable fellowship.

International students are expected to be here as full-time students, and may not work off campus except under very strict conditions. For more information regarding [international student employment](#), please see the Graduate Catalog.

Tuition Support and Health Insurance

Tuition support and student health insurance correspond with a student's assistantship. If a student is working full-time (20 hours/week) as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) or a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), they automatically qualify for health insurance and for re-classification as "in-state" for tuition purposes and the academic portion of their in-state tuition will either be waived (if GTA) or paid on their behalf by their research advisor (if GRA). [Tuition remission information](#) along with frequently asked questions concerning tuition waivers can be found on the College of Graduate Studies website. Information regarding paid [health insurance coverage](#) for qualifying graduate assistantship and university fellowship students can also be located on the College of Graduate Studies website.

Important Contacts

International Services Center, global.ucf.edu/

Financial Aid, finaid.ucf.edu/

Graduate Student Associations

Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is UCF's graduate organization committed to enrich graduate students' personal, educational and professional experience. To learn more or get involved, please visit facebook.com/groups/UCFgsa/. For individual department or graduate program organizations, please see program advisor.

[American Society of Materials International \(ASM\)](#) disseminates technical information related to materials science and engineering, and enhances the professional preparation of members through information-sharing and interaction among members in forums and meetings, routine chapter activities and publications.

[American Society of Mechanical Engineers \(ASME\)](#) promotes and enhances the technical competency and professional well-being of our members, through quality programs and activities in mechanical engineering.

[Materials Research Society \(MRS\)](#) exposes students to materials research and publicity of UCF in a global materials research environment.

[American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics \(AIAA\)](#) broadens the horizons of students interested in Aerospace Engineering and aid their futures in Aerospace engineering by bridging the gap between students and the industry.

[Students for the Exploration and Development of Space \(SEDS\)](#) promotes space exploration and the drive to become a space fairing civilization by providing members with experience on real life projects.

[The Florida Engineering Society](#) prepares engineering students of all disciplines for the high level of performance and responsibility that is required to succeed in today's job market, while providing the opportunity to develop professional relationships with professional engineers, educators and peers.

[National Society of Black Engineers \(NSBE\)](#) strives to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

[Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers \(SHPE\)](#) promotes the development of Hispanics in engineering, science and other technical professions.

[Society of Women Engineers \(SWE\)](#) is a useful resource for women in technical fields including engineering.

[Student Panel for Engineering and Computer Science](#) promotes student interests and achievements within the College and to the technical community at-large, serving as an advisory board to the Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science and as a coordinating body for college-wide events.

[Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity](#) develops and maintains a high standard of professional interest among its members.

Professional Development

Professional development opportunities in this discipline are available through research, clinical experiences and participation in student professional organizations.

In this section, we identify university resources available to students for professional development. A graduate student's professional development goes beyond completing course work, passing exams, conducting research for a thesis or dissertation, and meeting degree requirements. Professional development also involves

developing the academic and non-academic skills needed to become successful in the field of choice. UCF has an active professional development program for graduate students, including the following programs:

- Professoriate Program, sponsored by Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
- Preparing Tomorrow's Faculty Program, sponsored by Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
 - This certificate program (12-weeks) consists of group and individualized instruction by Faculty Center staff and experienced UCF professors. Textbooks and materials are provided.
- Career Services and Experiential Learning
- Pathways to Success Workshops
- Graduate Research forum, sponsored by the College of Graduate Studies and Graduate Student Association
- Facilitate summer internships for graduate students and inform students of such opportunities.
- The following are Graduate Awards of Excellence programs:
 - Award for Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant
 - Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching
 - Award for the Outstanding Master's Thesis

Students have many opportunities to further their careers while pursuing graduate work here at the university. While working with faculty advisors, they are able to present papers and posters at various conferences, develop their grant writing skills while assisting with proposals and gain notoriety through their publications.

Job Search

For specific services or resources provided by the academic program, please visit the [Department of Materials Science and Engineering website](#).

UCF's Career Services department offers a wide range of programs and services designed to assist graduate students. These services include evaluation and exploration of career goals, preparation for the job search and job search resources. To learn more, visit their website at career.ucf.edu/.

Forms

- [College of Graduate Studies Forms and References](#)
A complete listing of general forms and references for graduate students, with direct links, may be found here.
- [Graduate Petition Form](#)
When unusual situations arise, petitions for exceptions to policy may be requested by the student. Depending on the type of appeal, the student should contact his/her program adviser to begin the petition process.
- [Traveling Scholar Form](#)
If a student would like to take advantage of special resources available on another campus but not available on the home campus; for example, special course offerings, research opportunities, unique laboratories and library collections, this form must be completed and approved.

Useful Links

- [Materials Science and Engineering MSMSE](#)
- [College of Engineering and Computer Science](#)
- [College of Graduate Studies](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [Campus Map](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [Financial Assistance](#)

- [Golden Rule Student Handbook](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Student Association](#)
- [Graduate Student Center](#)
- [Housing and Residence Life](#)
- [Housing, off campus](#)
- [Knights Email](#)
- [Library](#)
- [NID Help](#)
- [Pathways to Success](#)
- [Recreation and Wellness Center](#)
- [Shuttles Parking Services](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Thesis and Dissertation \(ETD\)](#)
- [UCF Global](#)
- [University Writing Center](#)

Grad Faculty

Asterisk = has previous committee experience, which qualifies the person to serve as vice chair

An, Linan *

College: College of Engineering and Computer Science

Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering

Research interests: Ceramics High-temperature Sensors Nanostructured Materials, Nanocomposites

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Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering

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Challapalli, Suryanarayana *

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Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering

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Chow, Lee *

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering

Research interests: Synthesis of II-VI Semiconductor Thin Films and Nanostructures, Chemical Bath Deposition, Nanofabrication Using FIB, Diffusion in Nanomaterials

Contact Info: Lee.Chow@ucf.edu

Websites: <http://physics.ucf.edu/~lc/>

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Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering

Optics and Photonics

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Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering
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Heinrich, Helge *

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Research interests: Materials Science, Condensed Matter Physics, Electron Scattering, Nanomaterials
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Leon, Lorraine

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Mukhopadhyay, Kausik

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Rajaraman, Swaminathan *

College: College of Graduate Studies
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Roy, Tania

College: College of Engineering and Computer Science
Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering
Contact Info: Tania.Roy@ucf.edu

Schelling, Patrick *

College: College of Engineering and Computer Science
Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering
Research interests: Computational Physics, Computational Materials Science, Condensed Matter Physics
Contact Info: pschell@ucf.edu
Websites: <http://physics.ucf.edu/~schellin/>

Sohn, Yongho *

College: College of Engineering and Computer Science
Disciplinary affiliations: Materials Science and Engineering
Research interests: Diffusion in Solids, Materials Kinetics, Multicomponent Intrinsic and Interdiffusion in Multiphase Alloys including Phase-Field Simulation, Thermal Barrier Coatings and Protective Metallic/Ceramic Coatings, Oxidation, Hot Corrosion and Other Environmental Degradation in Gas Turbines, Thermotransport and Irradiation-Enhanced Diffusion in Research and Next-Generation Nuclear Fuels and Claddings, Kinetic Energy Materials and Superlight-Weight Metal-Matrix Composites, Processing, Microstructure and Property Relations in Materials, Materials Characterization, Physical Metallurgy, Phase Transformations and Materials Thermodynamics
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Vaidyanathan, Raj *

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