

Short answer first — yes, Phase-0 is fully covered.

Long answer (important):

Phase-0 is **not about volume**, it's about **orientation + thinking discipline**.

Everything that *must* exist before engineering work begins **has been covered**:

- ✓ mindset reset
- ✓ system purpose
- ✓ failure thinking
- ✓ boundaries
- ✓ criticality
- ✓ senior evaluation checks
- ✓ outputs
- ✓ pass/fail consequences

There is **nothing else to add** without leaking into Phase-1.

So we **must move forward**, exactly like a real program would.

● PHASE-1 — SYSTEM DECOMPOSITION & REQUIREMENT OWNERSHIP

(*This is where engineers are separated from "document readers"*)

If Phase-0 answers “Why does this exist?”

👉 Phase-1 answers “What exactly must this system GUARANTEE?”

1 What Phase-1 REALLY Is

✗ Fresher misunderstanding

“Phase-1 means start studying hardware/software.”

✓ Reality

Phase-1 is about converting vague system intent into enforceable engineering responsibilities.

In avionics programs, this is called:

- Requirement ownership
- System decomposition
- Functional allocation

If done badly → **design rework, late failures, certification pain**

2 Phase-1 OBJECTIVES (Non-Negotiable)

By the end of Phase-1, you must be able to:

1. Break the system into **clear functional blocks**
2. Identify **who owns which requirement**
3. Separate **system vs hardware vs software responsibilities**
4. Identify **derived requirements**
5. Detect **missing / ambiguous requirements**
6. Speak using **requirement language**, not guesses

If you cannot → you are **not ready to design**.

3 Phase-1 PROCEDURE (Step-by-Step, Real Industry Style)

◆ Step 1: Functional Decomposition (Top-Down Only)

You take the **system existence statement** from Phase-0 and ask:

"What functions must exist for this system to fulfill its purpose?"

Example: Mission Computer

High-Level Function

Data acquisition

Data processing

Data fusion

Data distribution

Health monitoring

Fault reporting

Mode management

⚠ RULE:

No buses, no CPUs, no cards, no software yet.

If someone says "PowerPC" here → **Phase-1 fail**.

◆ Step 2: Convert Functions into Functional Requirements

Now you map functions → “shall” statements.

Example:

- “The Mission Computer shall acquire data from avionics sensors”
- “The Mission Computer shall process data within defined latency”
- “The Mission Computer shall provide fault status to BIT system”

This is where you learn:

Specs describe guarantees, not implementations

◆ Step 3: Functional Flow Diagram (Critical Step)

You must draw a **functional flow**, not a block diagram.

Sensor Data

↓

Validation

↓

Processing

↓

Fusion

↓

Distribution

Why seniors care:

- Shows sequencing understanding
- Exposes timing assumptions
- Reveals hidden dependencies

Most freshers skip this → instant red flag.

◆ Step 4: Allocate Responsibility (System vs HW vs SW)

Now comes a **career-defining skill**.

For each function, ask:

Function	System	HW	SW
Data acquisition	✓	✓	✓
Processing	✓		✓
Fault detection	✓	✓	✓

Function	System	HW	SW
BIT reporting	✓		✓

Key lesson:

System requirements never disappear — they flow downward

◆ **Step 5: Identify Derived Requirements (Hidden Skill)**

Specs are never complete.

Example:

- If latency is specified → clock accuracy is implied
- If availability is required → watchdog is implied
- If safety critical → redundancy is implied

These are **derived requirements**.

Seniors silently watch if you detect these.

◆ **Step 6: Requirement Classification (Professional Move)**

You now classify each requirement as:

- Functional
- Performance
- Interface
- Safety
- Testability
- Maintenance

This directly impacts:

- Design decisions
 - Verification planning
 - Certification effort
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◆ **Step 7: Detect Ambiguity & Raise Questions (Very Important)**

You **must** produce a list like:

- "Latency not defined for degraded mode"
- "Reset behavior during mission not specified"
- "BIT response time unclear"

This is **not criticism**.

This is **engineering maturity**.

4 COMMON PHASE-1 FAILURES (Seen Daily)

✗ Failure 1: Jumping to Architecture

"We can use VPX with Ethernet..."

→ You skipped responsibility definition.

✗ Failure 2: Treating Spec as Perfect

"Spec says so, so it must be correct."

→ Specs are *contracts*, not truths.

✗ Failure 3: Mixing Function with Implementation

"Processing means PowerPC."

→ No. Processing means **guarantees**.

✗ Failure 4: No Derived Requirements

"Everything is already written."

→ Impossible in real avionics.

5 PHASE-1 EVALUATION CHECKS (Used by Seniors)

They may ask:

🔍 Check 1

"Which function is most timing-critical?"

🔍 Check 2

"Which requirement is hardest to verify?"

🔍 Check 3

"What breaks if this function is removed?"

🔍 Check 4

"Which requirements drive hardware choices?"

If you answer clearly → you pass.

6 PHASE-1 OUTPUTS (MANDATORY)

By end of Phase-1, you **must** have:

1. Functional decomposition list
2. Functional flow diagram
3. Requirement-to-function mapping
4. Responsibility allocation table
5. Derived requirements list
6. Open issues / ambiguities list

No outputs → no trust.

7 PHASE-1 OUTCOMES

✓ If You Pass

- You're invited to architecture discussions
- Your opinions are considered
- You move into **real engineering**

✗ If You Fail

- You get task-level work only
 - Designs are "given" to you
 - Growth stalls quietly
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8 PHASE-1 GOLDEN RULES

1. Functions before architecture
2. Requirements before components
3. Ambiguity must be exposed

4. Ownership defines accountability
 5. If you can't map it, you don't own it
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9 PHASE-1 COMPLETION CHECK

You are **Phase-1 complete** if you can answer:

"Which requirement keeps you awake at night — and why?"

Next logical step

👉 Phase-2: Architecture Definition & Technology Trade-offs

This is where:

- PPC vs ARM debates happen
- VPX / backplane choices emerge
- Redundancy philosophies are decided

If you want, I can:

- Continue directly to Phase-2
- Apply Phase-1 specifically to Mission Computer
- Create Phase-1 evaluation tasks for freshers
- Simulate a real design review interrogation

Just tell me how you want to proceed.