General Engineering

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Academic Programs

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General Engineering

The mission of the General Engineering Program is to provide students with the highest quality technical and professional engineering education, with a particular emphasis in new or evolving interdisciplinary areas, while allowing the student to participate in designing their curricula.

BS General Engineering

Flexibility, core competency and self-determination are the keywords for students of the General Engineering Program. The mission of the General Engineering Program is to provide students with the highest quality technical and professional engineering education, with a particular emphasis in new or evolving interdisciplinary areas, while allowing the students to participate in designing their curricula. General Engineering graduates have used this program as a foundation for advanced studies and careers in education, project management, technical sales, law, entrepreneurship, medicine and a hundred other paths defined by their keen intellects and adventuresome spirits.

The primary goal of the General Engineering Program is to provide students with a theoretically rigorous and a laboratory-centered, practice-oriented, hands-on education that allows graduates to immediately participate and to excel in professional environments. The program is underpinned by a rigorous selection of mathematics, science, basic engineering and liberal-arts courses. There are two paths in the General Engineering program: the General Curriculum in General Engineering, which provides a broad, but rigorous, undergraduate course of study, and the Individualized Course of Study, in which students, with their advisors, select forty technical elective courses that allow the students to put their own mark on their degrees, ensuring a unique competency with a solid underpinning.

General Engineering graduates are ready for immediate entry into the professional engineering field. They demonstrate an ability to satisfy their personal needs for further education, as expressed in their matriculation to graduate or professional schools in many cases, and an interest in life-long learning in all cases. They possess a solid engineering foundation which underpins a successful career. They can become leaders, based on strong communication skills, a capacity to form teams and perform in teams, and an understanding of the economic and social impact of their decisions.

In addition to the abilities expected of all engineering graduates, articulated in the section of this catalog describing the College of Engineering, General Engineering graduates are expected to leave the University with special capabilities pertinent to their own concentrations.

The General Curriculum in General Engineering is designed to provide the broad foundation of engineering competency in preparation for further graduate/professional studies, engineering careers requiring a breadth of knowledge, and non-engineering careers benefiting from a broad technical background. The Individualized Course of Study is designed to allow students the latitude in course selection required to educate themselves either in the classical study of engineering or in new and evolving interdisciplinary technologies. Both the General Curriculum in General Engineering and the Individualized Course of Study are excellent preparation for an applied terminal masters degree in interdisciplinary fields such as the Blended BS+MS program described in the MS Engineering section of this catalog. General Engineering can also accommodate those students who wish to major in engineering but have not presently decided in which specific program their interest is centered. The curriculum builds a sound foundation in the fundamental principles of engineering and engineering systems during the early years of study. During their final quarters of study, students customize their study plan with the help of a faculty advisor and are given the opportunity to focus their education while still at the undergraduate level. The BS degree in General Engineering is, therefore, a direct path to employment in a classic engineering field or in an area of emerging technology. It is also a natural step toward a professional or a graduate degree.

General Engineering students are encouraged to participate in the Blended BS+MS program. This program recognizes that the expertise required of entry level engineers in many fields, particularly new and evolving technological fields, implies that a masters degree is a prerequisite for success. The program allows motivated students to reduce the time necessary to earn both degrees.

All practitioners of engineering must have an understanding of the physical sciences and mathematics. Further, they must have a firm grasp of engineering sciences. The General Engineering curriculum provides the framework for this matrix of understanding, upon which the practitioner may begin to develop a unique area of expertise.

The Individualized Course of Study is available to students who have completed their Sophomore year in any engineering major. This program is for directed, highly motivated students. The technical elective courses are selected to be consistent with a sharply defined career goal. Each student is required to submit a study plan to the coordinator prior to the end of the first quarter of their junior year. Study plans selected in the past have emphasized engineering physics, management of technology, bioengineering, ocean engineering and engineering in unique environments.

General Curriculum in General Engineering or Individualized Course of Study

General Curriculum

The General Engineering Curriculum in General Engineering is designed to meet the needs of students interested in a broad, but rigorous, undergraduate course of study. Students will primarily use this degree as preparation for further graduate/professional studies (e.g. engineering, law, business), engineering careers requiring breadth, and non-engineering careers benefiting from a broad technical background (e.g. education, entrepreneurship, non-profit organizations).