

# BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING (BS)

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Engineering

Program Website (<https://cals.cornell.edu/biological-environmental-engineering/undergraduate/>)

CIP: 14.4501 | HEGIS: 0903.00 | NYSED: 13235

## Program Description

The Biological Engineering Program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (<http://www.abet.org/>). Biological and environmental engineering (BEE) programs address three great challenges facing humanity today: ensuring an adequate and safe food supply in an era of expanding world population; protecting and remediating the world's natural resources, including water, soil, air, biodiversity, and energy; and developing engineering systems that monitor, replace, or intervene in or add value to the mechanisms of living organisms. The biological engineering (BE) major has a unique focus on biological systems, including the environment, which is realized through a combination of fundamental engineering sciences, biology, engineering applications and design courses, and liberal studies.

Students interested in the BE major should have a strong aptitude for the sciences and math and an interest in the complex social issues that surround technology.

Students take courses in math, engineering, statistics, computing, physics, chemistry, basic and advanced biology, fundamental engineering sciences (mechanics, thermodynamics, fluid mechanics, and transport processes), plus biomaterials, bioinstrumentation, systems biology, and engineering design. Students select upper-level engineering courses in subjects that include bioprocessing, biotechnology applications, renewable energy, engineering aspects of animal and cellular physiology, soil and water management, environmental systems analysis, sustainable energy, and waste management and disposal plus technical electives from other engineering majors. Students may further strengthen their programs by completing a minor or a second engineering major. Students planning for health careers also take additional lab-based courses in chemistry and biology. Throughout the curriculum, emphasis is placed on communications and teamwork skills, and all students complete a capstone design project.

Career opportunities cover the spectrum of self-employment, private industry, public agencies, educational institutions, and graduate and professional programs in engineering and science, as well as professional fields like medicine, business, and law. In recent years, graduates have pursued careers in consulting, biotechnology, the pharmaceutical industry, biomedical engineering, management, and international development.

The living world is all around us and within us. The ongoing biological revolution has given rise to a growing demand for technical problem solvers who have studied biology, who have strong math and science skills, who can communicate effectively, and who are sensitive to the needs of people and the environment, and interested in the challenges facing society. The Biological Engineering major is designed to educate the next generation of engineers to meet these challenges.

## Academic Standing

Majors in Biological Engineering are expected to meet the following standards:

1. Semester GPA  $\geq$  2.0
2. Cumulative GPA  $\geq$  2.0
3. A semester GPA  $\geq$  2.0 in biological and environmental engineering courses and engineering distribution courses
4. At most, one grade below C- in required core courses, design courses, BE Focus Area electives, and engineering distribution courses can count towards completion of undergraduate Major.
5. Passing grade in at least 12 credits each semester
6. No failing grades

The College of Engineering also requires that each course in the required mathematics sequence - 1910, 1920, 2930, 2940 - be passed with a grade of C- or better.

## Academic Standards

- First-year and transfer students are admitted directly into the major and most prerequisites will be met by virtue of the requirements for admission. Students seeking to transfer internally to the BE major should contact Brenda Marchewka ([bee-ugrad@cornell.edu](mailto:bee-ugrad@cornell.edu)) for more information.
- All major requirements must be taken for a letter grade.
- Only one grade of "D" is allowed in the major, excluding the math sequence in which students must earn a "C-" or higher, to meet major requirements.
- Engineering distribution and field courses require a minimum of **48** credits (includes focus area credits).
- Focus areas require a minimum of **15** credits.

## Honors Program

The B.S. degree with honors is granted to biological engineering majors who graduate with distinction from the College of Engineering and satisfy the Honors requirements given on the page "Undergraduate Study and Graduation Requirements."

The Honors program requires completion of 9 credits beyond the B.S. degree requirements drawn from the following, with at least 6 credits in the first category:

1. A significant research experience or honors project under the supervision of a BEE faculty member using BEE 4990 Undergraduate Research and BEE 4993 Honors Thesis completed in their senior year. A written senior honors thesis must be submitted as part of the 2nd component. A minimum grade of A- in both courses is required for successful completion of the honors requirement. It is expected that the two research courses will be taken in consecutive semesters.
2. A significant teaching experience under the direct supervision of a BEE faculty member or as part of a regularly recognized course in the department under BEE 4980 Undergraduate Teaching.
3. Advanced or graduate courses. These additional courses must be technical in nature, i.e., in engineering, math, biology, chemistry, and physics at the 4000+ and graduate level.
4. The student must present a poster or oral presentation in a public research forum or another scholarly forum such as a national or

regional professional society meeting, or another university or regional event by the end of the project.

## Timing

- All interested students must complete a written application (available in 207 Riley-Robb Hall) no later than the end of the third week of the senior year, but are encouraged to make arrangements with a faculty member during the second semester of their junior year. A student must be in the program for at least two consecutive semesters before graduation.

## Procedures

- Each applicant to the BE Honors Program must have a BEE faculty advisor to supervise their honors program. A written approval of the faculty member who will direct the research is required.

## Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 129

## Program Requirements

### Basic Subjects

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Calculus for Engineers and Engineering Mathematics: (16 Credits)</b>		
MATH 1910	Calculus for Engineers <sup>2</sup>	4
MATH 1920	Multivariable Calculus for Engineers	4
MATH 2930	Differential Equations for Engineers	4
MATH 2940	Linear Algebra for Engineers	4

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Physics: (8 Credits) <sup>3</sup></b>		
PHYS 1112	Physics I: Mechanics and Heat	3
PHYS 1110	Introduction to Experimental Physics	1
PHYS 2213	Physics II: Electromagnetism	4

Code	Title	Hours
<b>General Chemistry (4 Credits) <sup>1</sup></b>		
CHEM 2090	Engineering General Chemistry or CHEM 207 General Chemistry I	

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Organic Chemistry (3 Credits) <sup>1</sup></b>		
CHEM 1570	Introduction to Organic and Biological Chemistry (or) or CHEM 3570 Organic Chemistry for the Life Sciences	3

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Computer Programming: (4 Credits)</b>		
CS 1112	Introduction to Computing: An Engineering and Science Perspective (preferred) or CS 1110 Introduction to Computing: A Design and Development Perspective	

## Biological Sciences <sup>1,4</sup>: (15 Credits)

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Introductory Biology</b>		<b>8</b>
<i>Select two of the following sequences:</i>		
BIOMG 1350	Introductory Biology: Cell and Developmental Biology	
BIOG 1440	Introductory Biology: Comparative Physiology or BIOG 144! Introduction to Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, Individualized Instruction	
BIOEE 1610	Introductory Biology: Ecology and the Environment or BIOSM 16 Ecology and the Marine Environment	
BIOG 1500	Investigative Biology Laboratory or BIOSM 15 Investigative Marine Biology Laboratory	
<b>Biochemistry</b>		<b>4-5</b>
<i>Select one of the following sequences:</i>		
BIOMG 3300	Principles of Biochemistry, Individualized Instruction (or) or BIOMG 3330	
BIOMG 3310 & BIOMG 3320	Principles of Biochemistry: Proteins and Metabolism and Principles of Biochemistry: Molecular Biology (or)	
BIOMG 3350	Principles of Biochemistry: Proteins, Metabolism, and Molecular Biology	

<b>Biological Science Electives</b>		<b>3-4</b>
A 2000-level or higher biological science course that requires a biological science prerequisite, to bring the number of biological science credits to at least 15		

## Major-Required Courses: (48 Credits)

Code	Title	Hours
ENGRI 1XXX	Any Introduction to Engineering course	3
ENGRD 2020	Statics and Mechanics of Solids (crosslisted)	4
BEE 2220	Sustainable Engineering Thermodynamics or ENGRD 2210 Thermodynamics or CHEME 3130 Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics or MSE 3030 Thermodynamics of Condensed Systems	3
BEE 2600	Principles of Biological Engineering (crosslisted) or BEE 2510 Engineering Processes for Environmental Sustainability	3
BEE 3310	Bio-Fluid Mechanics or CHEME 3230 Fluid Mechanics	4
BEE 3400	Design and Analysis of Biomaterials	3
BEE 3500	Heat and Mass Transfer in Biological Engineering	4
BEE 3600	Molecular and Cellular Bioengineering	3
BEE 4500	Bioinstrumentation	3-4
CEE 3040	Uncertainty Analysis in Engineering (preferred) or ENGRD 2700 Eng Probability and Statistics: Modeling and Data Science	4

## Focus Area Electives (15 Credits)

Code	Title	Hours
BEE 4590 or BEE 4530	Physical Design in Biological Engineering Computer-Aided Engineering: Applications to Biological Processes	3

### Focus Area Courses<sup>5</sup> 12

Twelve additional credits selected from one or more of the 7 focus areas, to bring the elective total to a minimum of 15 credits:

Molecular and Cellular Systems
Ecological and Microbial Systems
Nanobiotechnology
Computational Biological Engineering
Synthetic Biology
Biomaterials
Sustainability

## Electives

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Major Approved Electives:</b>		
2000-level or higher engineering course to bring the number of engineering credits to at least 48		

<sup>1</sup> Basic accredited curriculum. See also the section on minors. Information on preprofessional study for medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine is available at the Cornell Career Services website (<http://www.career.cornell.edu/>).

<sup>2</sup> Students must have a competency in calculus equivalent to MATH 1110 Calculus I before they attempt MATH 1910 Calculus for Engineers.

<sup>3</sup> Premeds may petition the College of Engineering to take PHYS 2208 Fundamentals of Physics II in lieu of PHYS 2213 Physics II: Electromagnetism.

<sup>4</sup> AP credit accepted for some or all of the introductory biological science requirement but premeds should plan to take those courses here.

<sup>5</sup> See the BEE department advising website (<https://beadvised.bee.cornell.edu/>) for a current list of approved courses.

### Note:

- Students must satisfy the College of Engineering Technical Communications requirement by including one of the approved courses in their program of study.
- Orientation seminar - All students take ENGRG 1050 Engineering Seminar.
- EHS Lab Safety online training #2555 is required for graduation. This is typically taken in the first year.

## University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

## Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

## Non-academic Requirements

**Conduct Matters.** Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

**Financial Obligations.** Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

## Additional Requirements for Undergraduate Students

The University has two requirements for graduation that must be fulfilled by all undergraduate students: the swim requirement, and completion of two physical education courses. For additional information about fulfilling University Graduation Requirements, see the Physical Education website (<https://scl.cornell.edu/pe/>).

## Physical Education

All incoming undergraduate students are required to take two credits (two courses) of Physical Education prior to graduation. It is recommended they complete the two courses during their first year at Cornell. Credit in Physical Education may be earned by participating in courses offered by the Department of Athletics and Physical Education (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/courses/pe/>) and Cornell Outdoor Education, by being a registered participant on a varsity athletic team, or performing in the marching band.

Students with medical concerns should contact the Office of Student Disability Services (<http://sds.cornell.edu/>).

## Swim Requirement

The Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education has established a basic swimming and water safety competency requirement for all undergraduate students. Normally, the requirement is taken during the Fall Orientation process at Helen Newman Hall or Teagle Hall pools. The requirement consists of the following: jump or step feet-first into the deep end of the pool, float or tread for one minute, turn around in a full circle, swim 25 yards using any stroke(s) of choice without touching the bottom or holding on to the sides (there is no time limit) and exit from the water. Students who do not complete the swim requirement during their first year, during a PE swim class or during orientation subsequent years, will have to pay a \$100 fee. Any student who cannot meet this requirement must register for PE 1100 Beginning Swimming as their physical education course before electives can be chosen.

If a student does not pass the swim requirement in their first Beginning Swimming PE class, then the student must take a second Beginning Swimming PE class (PE 1100 or PE 1101). Successful completion of two Beginning Swimming classes (based on attendance requirements) with the instructor's recommendation will fulfill the University's swim requirement.

Students unable to meet the swim requirement because of medical reasons should contact the Office of Student Disability Services (<http://sds.cornell.edu/>). When a waiver is granted by the Faculty Committee on Physical Education, an alternate requirement is imposed. The alternate requirement substitute is set by the Director of Physical Education.

## College of Engineering Graduation Requirements

### Undergraduate Study

Students in the College of Engineering spend most of their first two years of undergraduate studies in the Common Curriculum, which is administered by the College Curriculum Governing Board (CCGB) through the associate dean for undergraduate programs and Engineering Advising. By the end of their third semester, they typically apply to affiliate with an Engineering major and must be affiliated by the start of their fifth semester.

Criteria for affiliation with the majors are described in this section under "Affiliation with a Major". The Undergraduate Engineering Majors are listed on the College of Engineering Programs page (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/engineering/#programstext>).

Many of the majors have a corresponding minor, in which the student can pursue a secondary interest if eligible. In addition, there are minors that cut across majors including applied mathematics, engineering management, engineering statistics, game design, artificial intelligence, information science, and business. See Engineering Minors section of the College of Engineering Programs page (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/engineering/#programstext>) for a listing of Undergraduate Minors.

### Engineering Core Requirements - Engineering Major Engineering Majors

To receive the bachelor of science degree, students must meet the requirements of the Common Curriculum (outlined below) as set forth by the College of Engineering, including the requirements of their chosen major, as established by the school or department that administers the major. (Further explanation of the revised Common Curriculum and major flow charts are provided in the *Engineering Undergraduate Handbook*.)

Course Category	Credits
Mathematics (major-specific)	14-16
Physics (major-specific)	8-13
Chemistry (major-specific)	4-8
First-year writing seminars	≥6
Engineering Communication <sup>1</sup>	1-3
Computing	4
Engineering Distribution	
a. One introduction to engineering (ENGRI)	3-4
b. Two engineering distributions (ENGRD)	6-8
Liberal studies distribution (6 courses min.)	≥18
Advisor Approved electives	≥6
Major program	

a. Major-required courses	≥30
b. Major-approved electives	≥9
c. Courses outside the major	≥9
Two semesters of physical education and demonstration of proficiency in swimming (university requirement)	

<sup>1</sup> Engineering-communication courses may simultaneously fulfill another requirement.

Total credits required for graduation vary by major (see Engineering Majors).

### Mathematics

The normal program in mathematics includes MATH 1910, MATH 1920, MATH 2930 or MATH 2940 depending on the major), and a major-specific math course for some majors. At least C- must be attained in these courses; if not, the course must be repeated immediately before the next course in the sequence is taken. Failure to achieve at least C- the second time will result in, at minimum, an automatic required leave of absence for one semester from the College of Engineering. Courses that are taken a second time do not yield additional credit toward a degree.

### Physics

The normal program in physics includes PHYS 1112, PHYS 1110, PHYS 2213, and PHYS 2214 or the corresponding honors courses (PHYS 1116, PHYS 1110, PHYS 2210, PHYS 2217, and PHYS 2218). Engineering students should attain at least C- in each math prerequisite of a physics course before taking the physics course (e.g., C- in MATH 1910 before taking PHYS 1112 and C- in MATH 1920 before taking PHYS 2213). Substitutions for PHYS 2214 are possible in certain majors. Please consult the Engineering Undergraduate Handbook (<https://cornellengineeringhandbook.freeflowdp.com/cornellengineeringhandbook/library/>) for details.

### Chemistry

CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091 is required. While the content of CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091 is the same as that of CHEM 2070 and span class="structuredcontent" college="all" contenteditable="false" department="CHEM" id="courseinline24" title="Inline Course - Double Click to Edit">CHEM 2071, Engineering students are expected to take CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091.

Typically, CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091 is taken during the first year, but students who wish to first complete the physics sequence (PHYS 1112, PHYS 1110, PHYS 2213, and PHYS 2214, depending on the major) may postpone CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091 until the sophomore year.

Students considering chemical engineering or a health-related career such as medicine must take CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091 in the fall of their first year and CHEM 2080 and CHEM 2081 in the spring semester.

### Computing

Students must complete one Introduction to Computing course during either semester of the first year. Students can take either CS 1110 or CS 1112. Some majors may have a preference of either CS 1110 or CS 1112, however, either one will count toward the degree requirement.

### First-Year Writing Seminars

Each semester of their first year, students choose a first-year writing seminar from courses offered by over 30 different departments across

the university. These courses offer the student practice in writing English prose and college level discourse within a small class (<20) setting.

## Engineering Communications

Students can fulfill the Engineering Communications Requirement using one of the options below. See the Engineering Communications Program website (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/courses-requirements/bachelor-science-requirements/engineering-communications-requirement/>) for more information.

### Category A: Via the Engineering Communications Program Courses and Opportunities

#### 1. Engineering Communication Program Courses

Courses in this category, offered by the Engineering Communications Program (ECP), develop communication skills in a variety of genres, including writing, presenting, multimodal forms, graphics, charts, posters, and other. These courses fulfill the Engineering Communication Requirement for Cornell's College of Engineering.

Code	Title	Hours
ENGR 3025	Creating and Communicating Your Digital Professionalism	1
ENGR 3026	Engineering Presentations and Expert Presence	1
ENGR 3027	Cross-cultural Communications and Ethics in the Workplace	1
ENGR 3340	Independent Study in Engineering Communications	1-3
ENGR 3350	Organizational Communications for Engineers	3
ENGR 3500	Engineering Communications	3
ENGR 3700	Communications Consulting for Engineers	3

#### 2. Complete a Communication-Intensive Co-op, listed as ENGR 3024

This is an opportunity to combine work and academics. Some co-op students do a significant amount of writing and other communicative work on the job; under certain circumstances, a set of authentic work artifacts combined with on-site manager reviews and guide, reflective summary assignments with an ECP instructor will satisfy the Engineering Communications Requirement. This option does not count toward the Liberal Studies requirements for engineers. Students should begin organizing this request the semester prior to being on-site for the co-op or internship. Not offered AY 2025-2026.

#### 3. Enroll in and pass ENGR 3023

A one credit attachment to an engineering course that is not one of the officially designated W-I or C-I courses. CE instructors may occasionally wish to extend communication competencies with added work inside their course for a given semester so that it will fulfill the Engineering Communications Requirement. With approval from the College Curriculum Governing Board (CCGB) Subcommittee on Engineering Communications, instructors may have students co-register in ENGR 3023, which may be taken more than once with different courses by permission of the engineering instructors. This option does not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition. More information can be found at the Cornell Engineering website (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/courses-requirements/bachelor-science-requirements/engineering-communications-requirement/engrc-3023/>).

To begin, send an email to [engrcmm\\_info@cornell.edu](mailto:engrcmm_info@cornell.edu), requesting the full ENGR 3023 information packet. Please insert "3023 request" in the subject line.

Paperwork is due by the last Wednesday in January for the Spring semester.

#### 4. Complete and Pass a One Credit Partner Course

The current options are below, and they require enrollment in the departmental course (usually three credits) and its corresponding ENGR course (one credit). The below courses do not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGR 3120	Communications for Practical Tools for Operations Research, Machine Learning and Data Science <sup>1</sup>	1
ENGR 3152	Communication for Game Development <sup>2</sup>	1
ENGR 3610	Communication for Transportation Engineering <sup>3</sup>	1
ENGR 4152	Communication for Advanced Game Development <sup>4</sup>	1
ENGR 4590	Physical Design Communication in Biological Engineering <sup>5</sup>	1

<sup>1</sup> 1 cr partnered with ORIE 3120 Practical Tools for Operations Research, Machine Learning and Data Science

<sup>2</sup> 1 cr partnered with CS 3152 Introduction to Computer Game Architecture/INFO 3152 Introduction to Computer Game Design

<sup>3</sup> 1 cr partnered with CEE 3610 Introduction to Transportation Engineering

<sup>4</sup> 1 cr partnered with CS 4152 Advanced Topics in Computer Game Architecture/INFO 4152 Advanced Topics in Computer Game Design

<sup>5</sup> 1 cr partnered with BEE 4590 Physical Design in Biological Engineering

#### 5. Apply for ENGR 3341 Guided Fieldwork for Engineering Communications

Occasionally, a student will be doing a significant amount and variety of engineering or technical communication elsewhere in the College of Engineering, usually as part of a research team, as part of leadership in a project team, and the like. It may be appropriate to petition the CCGB's Subcommittee on Engineering Communications for permission to use as ENGR 3341 as an option for upcoming projects (not past ones) to meet the Engineering Communications Requirement. This option does not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition. It is essential for students and their mentoring Engineering faculty to prepare well in advance for this option. Request the information packet and form by emailing [engrcmm\\_info@cornell.edu](mailto:engrcmm_info@cornell.edu) with "3341 request" in the subject line. This option is not to be used for work done by teaching assistants, nor is it to be used to finish up work from prior semesters in another course. More information can be found at the Cornell Engineering website (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/courses-requirements/bachelor-science-requirements/engineering-communications-requirement/engrc-3341/>).

Paperwork is due by the last Wednesday in August for the Fall semester and the last Wednesday in January for the Spring semester.

### Category B: Via Other Paths

#### 1. Take an officially designated Writing-Intensive (W-I) or Communication-Intensive (C-I) engineering course.

- Note: The following course list is not comprehensive, as different engineering departments may offer W-I or C-I courses on an ad-hoc basis. Indeed, these offerings can change each semester. Students need to check with their major advisors each semester to confirm if a course will fulfill the Engineering Communications Requirement; curriculum approvals are made by each major via CCGB approval. W-

I or C-I courses are based in a major, as part of that major's regular core offerings to its declared/affiliated undergraduate majors. This option does not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition. See also the CE Undergraduate Handbook (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/engineering-undergraduate-handbook/>).

- It's important to note that these options usually only fulfill the Engineering Communications Requirement for their own majors. Students, advisors, and departments need to cross check against each student's major requirements for graduation. The Engineering Communications Program does not control, monitor, or assess for these courses. This option does not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition.

Code	Title	Hours
BEE 4530	Computer-Aided Engineering: Applications to Biological Processes (crosslisted)	3
BEE 4730	Watershed Engineering	4
BEE 4590	Physical Design in Biological Engineering	3
BME 4190	Laboratory Techniques for Molecular, Cellular, and Systems Engineering	3
BME 4390	Circuits, Signals and Sensors: Instrumentation Laboratory	3
BME 4490	Biomechanics Laboratory (crosslisted)	3
CHEME 4320	Chemical Engineering Laboratory	4
ECE 4920	ECE Technical Writing	1
MAE 4272	Fluids and Heat Transfer Laboratory	3
MSE 4030	Senior Materials Laboratory I	4
ORIE 4100	Manufacturing Systems Design: A Consulting Boot Camp	4

## 2. Enroll in and Pass COMM 3020 or COMM 3030

- Enroll in and pass COMM 3020 or COMM 3030 taught by the Department of Communication (in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences). The Engineering Communications Program does not control, monitor, or assess for these courses. This option does not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition. See also the CE Undergraduate Handbook (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/students/undergraduate-students/curriculum/engineering-undergraduate-handbook/>).

### Introduction-to-Engineering Course:

An introduction-to-engineering course (designated ENGR I) is expected to be completed by the end of a student's first year. This course introduces students to the engineering process and provides a substantive experience in an open-ended problem-solving context. See the Introduction-to-Engineering course listing for current course offerings.

## 3. Enroll in and pass HADM 3670, taught through the Nolan School

- The Engineering Communications Program does not control, monitor, or assess for these courses. This option does not also fulfill the Liberal Studies requirement, even via petition. See also the Engineering Undergraduate Handbook (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/engineering-undergraduate-handbook/>).

## Engineering Distribution

Two engineering distribution (ENGRD) courses (6–8 credits) must be selected from two different categories listed below. A student may use any one of the possible substitutions described.

### 1. Scientific computing:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGRD 2110	Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures (crosslisted)	4
ENGRD 2112	Object-Oriented Design and Data Structures - Honors (crosslisted)	4
ENGRD 2140	Computer Systems Programming (crosslisted)	4
ENGRD 3200	Engineering Computation (crosslisted)	4

### 2. Materials Science:

ENGRD 2610 Mechanical Properties of Materials: From Nanodevices to Superstructures  
ENGRD 2620 Electronic Materials for the Information Age

### 3. Mechanics:

ENGRD 2020 Statics and Mechanics of Solids  
Note: Majors in Engineering Physics may use AEP 3330 as an ENGRD in this category.

### 4. Probability and statistics:

ENGRD 2700 Eng Probability and Statistics: Modeling and Data Science  
Note: Majors in Engineering Physics may substitute MATH 4710 for ENGRD 2700. Majors in Civil Engineering, Biological Engineering, and Environmental Engineering may substitute CEE 3040 for ENGRD 2700.  
ENGRD 2720

### 5. Electrical sciences:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGRD 2100	Introduction to Circuits for Electrical and Computer Engineers (crosslisted)	4
ENGRD 2300	Digital Logic and Computer Organization (crosslisted)	4
ENGRD 2550	Engineering Quantum Information Hardware (crosslisted)	3

### 6. Thermodynamics and energy balances:

ENGRD 2111 Biomolecular Thermodynamics  
ENGRD 2190 Chemical Process Design and Analysis  
ENGRD 2210 Thermodynamics

### 1. Earth and life sciences:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGRD 2250	The Earth System (crosslisted)	4
ENGRD 2510	Engineering Processes for Environmental Sustainability (crosslisted)	3
ENGRD 2600	Principles of Biological Engineering (crosslisted)	3

### 2. Biology and chemistry:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGRD 2202	Biomedical Transport Phenomena (crosslisted)	3
CHEM 3890	Honors Physical Chemistry I	4
ENGRD 2520	The Physics of Life (crosslisted)	3
BIOMG 3300	Principles of Biochemistry, Individualized Instruction	4

or BIOMG 331 (Principles of Biochemistry: Proteins and Metabolism)  
 or BIOMG 335 (Principles of Biochemistry: Proteins, Metabolism, and Molecular Biology)

### Additional Information

Some majors may require completion of 9 specific engineering distribution courses for affiliation (acceptance into the major), or as a prerequisite for upper-class courses. For complete information, please see Affiliation with a Major and the flow charts for each major in the Engineering Undergraduate Handbook (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/engineering-undergraduate-handbook/>).

Note: Some majors require additional distribution courses after affiliation.

### Liberal Studies Distribution

Global and diverse societies require that engineers have an awareness of historical patterns, an appreciation for different cultures, professional ethics, the ability to work in multifaceted groups, and superior communication skills. Cornell has a rich curriculum in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, enabling every engineering student to obtain a truly liberal education. The rationale for these distribution courses is discussed in the Requirements for Graduation section of the *Engineering Undergraduate Handbook* and these courses should be chosen with as much care and foresight as courses from technical areas.

Requirements:

- At least six courses (totaling at least 18 credits)
- The six courses must be chosen from the categories listed and come from at least three different groups outlined in the following section
- At least 3 or more credits must be chosen from Group 7
- No more than two courses may be chosen from Group 6 (CE)
- At least two courses must be at the 2000 level or higher

The categories outlined above have been organized into seven Groups based on common themes in content. Those Groups are as follows:

#### Group 1. Cultural Analysis, Literature and the Arts, Social Differences

- Cultural Analysis (CA)
- Literature and the Arts (LA)
- Literature, the Arts and Design (LAD)
- Arts, Literature, and Culture (ALC)
- Social Difference (SCD-HA only. SCD-AS not allowed in this group.)

#### Group 2. Historical Analysis

- Historical Analysis (HA/ HST)

#### Group 3. Ethics, Cognition, and Moral Reasoning

- Knowledge, Cognition, and Moral Reasoning (KCM)
- Ethics and the Mind (ETM)

#### Group 4. Social Science and Global Citizenship

- Social and Behavioral Analysis (SBA)
- Social Sciences (SSC)
- Global Citizenship (GLC)

#### Group 5. Foreign Languages (not literature courses) (FL)

- Courses teaching language skills, inclusive of reading, writing, listening, and spoken non-English languages, at beginning to advanced levels.

#### Group 6. Communications in Engineering (CE)

- Engineering specific courses exploring communication as a way of acting in the world
- Courses must be specifically designated by CCGB as satisfying the CE category (no petitions)
- No more than two courses from this category may be used to satisfy the liberal studies requirement

#### Group 7. Race and Equity

- Social Difference (SCD-AS only. SCD-HA not allowed in this group)
- Diversity (D-AG only. D-HE not allowed in this group)

Students should utilize the current Courses of Study as the master list of approved liberal studies courses. Refer to Cornell Engineering Advising's Liberal Studies Policies (<https://liberal-studies.engineering.cornell.edu/>) webpage for complete lists of additional approved courses and unacceptable courses. Please direct any questions to Engineering Advising, 180 Rhodes Hall.

#### Electives

- **Advisor-Approved electives:** 6 credits required (approved by the faculty advisor<sup>1</sup>). Because these courses should help develop and broaden the skills of the engineer, faculty advisors generally accept the following as approved electives (as long as they are not being used elsewhere toward degree requirements):
  - One additional introduction-to-engineering course (ENGRI)
  - Engineering distribution courses
  - Courses stressing written or oral communication
  - Upper-level engineering courses
  - Advanced courses in mathematics
  - Rigorous courses in the biological and physical sciences
  - Courses in business, economics, or language (when they serve the student's educational and academic objectives)
  - Courses that expand the major or another part of the curriculum, including liberal studies electives not already being used toward the Liberal Studies Distribution requirement.
- Up to 6 credits of approved electives may come from ROTC courses at the 3000-level or higher.
- **Major-approved electives:** 9 credits (approved by the major and faculty advisors in the major). Refer to the major curricula for descriptions of courses in this category.
- **Outside-the-major electives:** 9 credits of courses outside the major to ensure breadth of engineering studies; these courses may be subject to major specific requirements for appropriateness.

<sup>1</sup> In the event a student and their faculty advisor disagree regarding the suitability of an approved elective, the student may appeal the decision to the Director of Undergraduate Studies (Associate Director) for their major department or to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs.

### First-Year Requirements

During the first year, engineering students are expected to complete (or receive credit for) the following core requirements:

Code	Title	Hours
MATH 1910 & MATH 1920	Calculus for Engineers and Multivariable Calculus for Engineers	4
Select two of the following:		4-8

CHEM 2080	General Chemistry II	
CHEM 2081	General Chemistry II Laboratory <sup>1</sup>	1
CHEM 2090	Engineering General Chemistry	
PHYS 1112	Physics I: Mechanics and Heat	
PHYS 1110	Introduction to Experimental Physics	
PHYS 2213	Physics II: Electromagnetism	
PHYS 2214	Physics III: Oscillations, Waves, and Quantum Physics (or the Honors equivalent) <sup>2</sup>	
One of: CS 111X		
Two first-year writing seminars		
One introduction to engineering (ENGRI) course		
Two physical education courses and the university swim test		

<sup>1</sup> Depends on the major.

<sup>2</sup> Depending on the major, students interested in chemical engineering, pre-med, or other health-related careers should enroll in the CHEM 2090 and CHEM 2091- CHEM 2080 and CHEM 2081 sequence during their first year.

Students interested in biomedical engineering should additionally complete BIOMG 1350 during the first year.

## Affiliation with a Major

Students are encouraged to apply for affiliation with a major during the first semester of their sophomore year, although earlier affiliation may be granted at the discretion of the major. This is done by completing the Application for Major Affiliation via the Engineering Registrar's website.

To affiliate, students must:

1. make good progress toward completing required courses in the common curriculum,
2. have a GPA  $\geq 2.0$ , and
3. have satisfied the major's course and grade requirements as specified below:

Students must be affiliated or conditionally affiliated with a major by the beginning of their fifth semester or they will be withdrawn from the College of Engineering, and therefore Cornell.

### Biological Engineering<sup>1</sup>

Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and at most one grade below C- in any math, chemistry, physics, and engineering courses: CS 1110, CS 1112, ENGRI, ENGRD, and any engineering course cross-listed with ENGRI or ENGRD. Completion of BEE 2600/ENGRD 2600 or ENGRD 2510 with at least C-, and one year of Introductory Biology (two lectures and a lab) with grades of at least C-. Allowable courses include BIOMG 1350, BIOG 1440, BIOG 1445 BIOG 1500, and BIOEE 1610. No more than two credits of research/project team and two credits of arts performance courses will count toward the cumulative GPA required for affiliation.

### Biomedical Engineering

Minimum GPA of 2.4 in designated math, science, and engineering courses completed with grades of C- or higher.

To apply for affiliation in the third semester, a student must be on track to complete the following requirements by the end of the third semester: BIOMG 1350 (or a score of 5 on the CEEB AP Exam (or equivalent)), MATH 1910, MATH 1920, MATH 2930, PHYS 1112, PHYS 1110, PHYS 2213, CHEM 2090 CHEM 2091, ENGRD 2111, CS 111X, and any ENGRI. BIOG 1440 cannot be used to satisfy this requirement for students entering Fall 2017 and after.

To apply for affiliation in the fourth semester, a student must be on track to complete the above courses plus the following additional courses by the end of the fourth semester: MATH 2940, ENGRD 2020, BME 2000, and BME 2010.

### Chemical Engineering

At most one grade below C- in chemistry, math, physics, and chemical engineering courses, and a GPA  $\geq 2.2$  in math, science, and engineering courses (except independent study, seminar, research, or project teams).

To apply for affiliation in the third semester, a student must be on track to complete the following requirements by the end of the semester:

- Mathematics: MATH 1910, MATH 1920, and MATH 2930
- Chemistry: CHEM 2090 & CHEM 2091, and CHEM 2080 & CHEM 2081 (or a score of 5 on the CEEB Advanced Placement exam for Chemistry and CHEM 2150 or CHEM 2080 & CHEM 2081)
- Physics: PHYS 1112, PHYS 1110, and PHYS 2213
- Computing: CS 111X
- Engineering Distribution: One Introduction to Engineering course (ENGRI 1XXX), ENGRD 2190, and CHEM 3890
- Two First-Year Writing Seminars
- One Liberal Studies Distribution course

Students applying in the fourth semester must be on track to complete the following prerequisites for junior year as well as the core requirements listed above: MATH 2940 or CEE 3040 or ENGRD 2700, CHEM 2900, CHEM 2200, CHEM 3230, and additional Liberal Studies Distribution course.

### Civil Engineering

GPA  $\geq 2.0$  in all engineering, math, and science courses that have been completed at the time of affiliation. C grade or higher in ENGRD 2020.

### Computer Science

At least C (not C-) in all completed CS courses and all critical math courses. GPA  $\geq 2.5$  in CS 2110/ CS 2112 and CS 2800/ CS 2802, or ECE 2400/ENGRD 2140 and CS 2800/CS 2802 and CS 3110. CS GPA calculation may be supplemented by the following courses: CS 3110 and CS 3410/ CS 3420. GPA  $\geq 2.3$  between MATH 1920 and any other completed critical math course(s): MATH 2940, MATH 4710, BTRY 3080/STSCI 3080, CS 4850, ECON 3130, ECE 3100, ENGRD 2700. If only AP/CASE credit appears, then another Cornell critical math course must be taken to affiliate. Qualifying courses must be taken at Cornell for a letter grade. A required supplemental application must be submitted along with the College of Engineering Application for Major Affiliation.

### Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

The following courses must be completed or currently enrolled in at the time of affiliation: MATH 1910, MATH 1920, MATH 2930, MATH 2940, PHYS 1110, PHYS 1112, PHYS 2213, CHEM 2090 & CHEM 2091, CHEM 2080 & CHEM 2081 (or CHEM 1570 or PHYS 2214). Must have at least a C- in all courses taken and a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or higher.

### Electrical and Computer Engineering

At least C+ in: MATH 2930 or MATH 2940, PHYS 2213, and one of ECE 2100/ENGRD 2100, ECE 2720 or ECE 2300/ENGRD 2300. Must have a GPA  $\geq 2.5$  in (if completed): MATH 1920, MATH 2930, MATH 2940, PHYS 2213, ENGRD 2110, ECE 2400/ENGRD 2140, ECE 2300/ENGRD 2300, ECE 2100/ENGRD 2100, ECE 2720/ENGRD 2720.

**Engineering Physics**

At least B– in all required math and physics courses: MATH 1910, MATH 1920, MATH 2930, MATH 2940, PHYS 1110, PHYS 1112/PHYS 1116, PHYS 2213/PHYS 2217, PHYS 2214/PHYS 2218, PHYS 2210.

**Environmental Engineering<sup>1</sup>**

GPA  $\geq$  2.0 in all math, science, and engineering courses. At least C– in BEE 2510/ENGRD 2510.

**Independent Major**

Students must submit, and receive approval for, a proposed program including endorsement from advisors for a primary and secondary area. See the IM website (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/independent-major/>) for specific requirements and deadlines.

**Information Science Systems, and Technology**

At least a C in two of MATH 2940, CS 2110/ENGRD 2110, and ENGRD 2700 (must have taken at least two of these courses at time of affiliation). GPA  $\geq$  2.5 between CS 2110/ENGRD 2110, ENGRD 2700, and all completed MATH and ISST Major core courses. Qualifying courses must be taken at Cornell, and for a letter grade. A required supplemental application (<https://affiliations.coecis.cornell.edu/is/>) must be submitted to ISST in addition to the College of Engineering's Application for Major Affiliation.

Students in their senior year of study intending to change majors to ISST or add ISST as a second major must submit a course plan to demonstrate they can complete all degree requirements by their current expected graduation date.

**Materials Science and Engineering**

On track to complete by the end of the fourth semester the following required courses, and completion of at least 24 credits from these courses, when applying for affiliation: MATH 1910, MATH 1920, MATH 2930, MATH 2940 (all with a minimum grade of C), PHYS 1110, PHYS 1112/PHYS 1116, PHYS 2213/PHYS 2213, CHEM 2090 & CHEM 2091, and CS 1110/CS 1112.

Additionally, cumulative GPA  $\geq$  2.0 in the completed required math, physics, and chemistry courses (including MSE 3010 if taken) and at least C in ENGRD 2610 or ENGRD 2620.

For any course that is repeated, the most recent grade will be used for affiliation requirements. However, repeated grades will be included for GPA calculations.

Students who will not satisfy these requirements by the end of the fourth semester should contact the MSE department about alternative paths to affiliation.

**Mechanical Engineering**

At least C– in ENGRD 2020 and all completed required math, physics, chemistry, and computer science courses. ENGRD 2210 is recommended prior to affiliation. GPA  $>$  2.5 in these courses: ENGRD 2210 (if taken), MATH 2930, PHYS 2213, and ENGRD 2020.

**Operations Research and Engineering**

At least C in each of ENGRD 2700 and MATH 2940. GPA  $\geq$  2.2 in math, science, and engineering courses (both overall and in the term immediately before affiliation). At least C– in all ORIE courses completed thus far. Good academic standing in the College of Engineering.

<sup>1</sup> Students may major in biological engineering and environmental engineering through the College of Engineering or the College of

Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). Students who do so through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are jointly administered by the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**Honors Program Within Majors**

Many of the engineering majors supplement the major with an honors program.

**Eligibility**

The B.S. degree with honors is granted to engineering students who, in addition to having completed the requirements for a B.S. degree in a major, satisfactorily complete the honors program in the major and are recommended for the degree by the honors committee of that major. To enter an honors program, the student must be on track to graduate with distinction, and a student who does not stay on track to graduate with distinction is will be dropped from the honors program.

At least 9 extra credit hours are required for the honors degree, and a student must be in the program for at least two semesters before graduation. Courses taken to satisfy the honors requirement may not be used to satisfy any other B.S. degree requirements.

No research, independent study, or teaching for which the student is paid may be counted toward the honors program.

**Procedures**

An applicant to the honors program in a major must have an honors advisor: a faculty member from that major who will supervise the honors program and direct any research or project. The honors advisor need not be the student's advisor in the major.

The application for the honors program should be a letter from the student that describes the proposed honors program in detail and includes the explicit approval of the honors advisor.

Students must complete a written application no later than the beginning of the first semester of their senior year, but they are encouraged to make arrangements with the honors advisor during the second semester of their junior year. Each major may place further constraints on timing.

**Major-Specific Information**

Each major defines the content of the honors program and may also place other requirements on the program, in terms of timing, content, and procedures. Information is given within the description of the individual majors.

**Learning Outcomes**

Biological Engineering students will learn how to:

- Identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics.
- Apply engineering design to produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety, and welfare, as well as global, cultural, social, environmental, and economic factors.
- Communicate effectively with a range of audiences.
- Recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in engineering situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of engineering solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts.
- Function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives.

- Develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions.
- Acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies.
- Apply engineering skills to biological systems.