

EARTH AND CLIMATE SCIENCES (ECSEN-BS)

Duffield College of Engineering

Program Website (<https://www.duffield.cornell.edu/eas/majors/ba-bs-earth-atmospheric-sciences/>)

CIP: 40.0699 | HEGIS: 1999.10 | NYSED: 39364

Program Description

The global-scale environmental challenges our society faces today demands a new generation of earth scientists who want to join in the effort to make a more sustainable planet. We work at spatial scales from atoms to solar systems and time scales from seconds to billions of years. Our aim is to understand the fundamental dynamics of our earth, ocean, and atmosphere in sufficient detail to fully reveal our planet's past and to reliably predict its future. We study a wide range of topics that include paleontology, earthquakes, volcanos, geophysics, climate change, melting ice sheets and changes in global ocean ecosystems. Earth and Atmospheric Sciences department faculty members and graduate students carry out cutting-edge research on subjects as diverse as satellite monitoring of volcanic activity, the deep structure of the Andes Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, natural and man-made earthquakes, the nature of the earth's ionosphere, global ocean ecosystems and climate change.

The Earth and Climate Sciences (ECS) major is the undergraduate program offered by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences to Cornell students in the College of Engineering, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. We offer four concentrations within the ECS major: Environmental Science, Geological Science, Atmospheric Science and Ocean Science. Each concentration will prepare students with a tailored set of skills and provide the flexibility to choose different pathways depending on their interests.

An abundance of opportunities exists for geological, oceanographic, and climate research in the field and for nationwide and international travel as well as paid research experience. Students have worked with faculty members in the Andes, the Aleutians, the Rocky Mountains, the Atacama Desert, the Caribbean, Tibet, and Hawaii, and have spent a semester at sea in the Sea Semester Program. Students are also able to probe the ionosphere of Earth and the surface of Mars by utilizing techniques in remote sensing.

The ECS major provides a strong preparation for graduate school in any one of the earth sciences, such as climate science, geological science, geophysics, geochemistry, oceanography, hydrology, biogeochemistry, and environmental science. Students seeking employment with the B.A. or B.S. degree will have many options in a wide variety of careers related to energy, the environment, and critical resources in both the private sector and government. Students with the strong science background provided by the ECS major are also highly valued by graduate programs in environmental law, public affairs, economics, and public policy.

Academic Standards

Program Policies

- All coursework for this major is in person, in Ithaca, unless otherwise noted

- All major requirements must be taken for a letter grade
- Students must have a C- or above in all courses taken for the Earth and Climate Sciences Major

Academic Standing

The criteria for good standing in the Earth and Climate Sciences major are as follows:

- Semester GPA \geq 2.0
- Cumulative GPA \geq 2.3

Honors Program

An honors program is offered by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences for qualified students. Students interested in applying should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies during the second semester of their junior year or very early in the first semester of their senior year.

Program Information

- Program Mode of Delivery: In Person
- Program Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 124

Program Requirements

In addition to the major requirements indicated below, students must meet the College of Engineering graduation requirements.

Math and Sciences

This part of the EAS curriculum builds a strong and diverse knowledge of fundamental science and mathematics, providing the student with the basic tools needed in upper-level science classes.

Code	Title	Hours
Mathematics		
MATH 1910 & MATH 1920	Calculus for Engineers and Multivariable Calculus for Engineers	8

Students in the College of Engineering are additionally required to take the following courses:

MATH 2930 & MATH 2940	Differential Equations for Engineers and Linear Algebra for Engineers	8
-----------------------	---	---

Code	Title	Hours
Physics		7-8
PHYS 2207 or PHYS 1112	Fundamentals of Physics I or Physics I: Mechanics and Heat	4
PHYS 2208 or PHYS 2213	Fundamentals of Physics II or Physics II: Electromagnetism	4

Code	Title	Hours
Chemistry		
Select one of the following options:		4
CHEM 2070 & CHEM 2071	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	
CHEM 2090 & CHEM 2091	Engineering General Chemistry and Engineering General Chemistry Laboratory	

Select one of the following:

3-4

CHEM 2080 & CHEM 2081	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory
CHEM 1570	Introduction to Organic and Biological Chemistry
PHYS 2214	Physics III: Oscillations, Waves, and Quantum Physics ¹

Code	Title	Hours
Biology		
Select one of the following:		3-5
BIOG 1140	Foundations of Biology	
BIOG 1440	Introductory Biology: Comparative Physiology	
BIOEE 1610	Introductory Biology: Ecology and the Environment	
BIOEE 1780	An Introduction to Evolutionary Biology and Diversity	
BIOMG 1350	Introductory Biology: Cell and Developmental Biology	
BIOSM 1610	Ecology and the Marine Environment	
BIOSM 1780	Evolution and Marine Diversity	

Complete one Advisor-Approved Course in Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, or Natural Science

In addition to the math, physics, chemistry, and biology requirements listed above, students are required to take an advisor-approved course in statistics, computer science, mathematics, or natural science (including, but not limited to, a course in astronomy, a second course in biology, or an additional course in physics or chemistry). Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences must select a second course in biology.

¹ PHYS 2214 may only be substituted for a second semester of Chemistry if student has taken PHYS 1112 and PHYS 2213.

Focused Electives

Climate Science Focused Elective

The curriculum in Climate Science focused elective emphasizes the scientific study of the behavior of climate and applications to the important practical problems of understanding how humans are modifying the climate system, the changing hazards caused by climate change, and the impacts of proposed mitigation efforts on the climate system. Students develop a fundamental understanding of the climate system, focused on the atmosphere and ocean, and develop skills to allow the analysis of changes in climate and their impacts on hazards such as extreme precipitation, drought, air quality, and the interactions with renewable energies. The curriculum includes a strong foundation in basic mathematics and science courses; core courses in atmospheric thermodynamics, atmospheric dynamics, and climate dynamics among a variety of Climate Science electives, including electives that teach students about how science and policy interact, as well as understanding the controversies and conclusions from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Code	Title	Hours
Climate Science Core Required Courses-Must take all		
EAS 2250	The Earth System	4
EAS 3050	Climate Dynamics	3
EAS 3410	Atmospheric Thermodynamics and Hydrostatics	3
EAS 3420	Atmospheric Dynamics	3

Code	Title	Hours
Climate Science Focused Elective Courses (5 courses)		
EAS 1400	Introductory Undergrad Skills for Success	1
EAS 2400	Observing the Earth: Remote Sensing and GIS	3
EAS 3010	Evolution of the Earth System	4
EAS 3030	Introduction to Biogeochemistry	4
EAS 3340	Microclimatology	3
EAS 3530	Physical Oceanography	3
EAS 4350	Statistical Methods in Meteorology and Climatology	3
EAS 4470	Physical Meteorology	3
EAS 4720	Fundamentals of Glaciology	3
EAS 4800	Atmospheric Chemistry: From Air Pollution to Global Change	3
EAS 4860	Tropical Meteorology and Climate	3
EAS 5555	Theory and Practice of Earth System Modeling	3
BEE 2000	Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge	1.5-3
BEE 4850	Environmental Data Analysis and Simulation	3

Climate Science Focused Elective Field Course

- EAS 2500 Meteorological Observations and Instruments

Other field options:

- Field courses offered by another college or university with prior advisor approval.¹
- Experience gained participating in field research with Cornell faculty (or REU at another institution)¹
- Advisor-approved Undergraduate Research (EAS 4910/EAS 4920) totaling at least three credits. The research must conclude with formal paper describing results and conclusions or a poster or oral presentation presented at a public venue.

¹ Require pre-approval by the faculty advisor and the EAS Curriculum Committee. These courses/internships/REUs should require observations to be taken in the field and interpreted by the student. Field courses should generally require 40+ hours of active observation and data collection in the field. Students using a non-credit research option for the field course requirement are required to complete an additional EAS concentration course.

Environmental Science Focused Elective

The curriculum in the Environmental Science focused elective focuses on the scientific study of the environment. Students in the Environmental Science focused elective of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences develop knowledge and understanding necessary to characterize environmental conditions, make informed predictions about the future, and prevent or address environmental problems. Environmental problems can involve physical, chemical, and biologic processes within the air, water, rock, and soil, and thus often require multidisciplinary solutions. The curriculum for the Environmental Science focused elective in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences prepares students to tackle these challenges through a strong foundation in basic math and science courses; core courses in Earth materials, environmental geophysics, and biogeochemistry; as well as elective focused elective courses involving the fields of groundwater and surface water hydrology, biogeochemistry, the geology sediments and soils, and geophysical methods of characterization; and includes field course options that focus on building practical experience. Beyond coursework, students also often take advantage of opportunities for work

experience through internships, undergraduate research projects, and environmental-themed project teams.

Code	Title	Hours
Environmental Science Core Required Courses-Must take all		
EAS 2250	The Earth System	4
EAS 3090	Earth Materials	3
EAS 3030	Introduction to Biogeochemistry	4
EAS 4710	Introduction to Groundwater	3

Code	Title	Hours
Environmental Science Focused Elective Courses (5 courses)		
BEE 4270	Water Measurement and Analysis Methods	3
BEE 4730	Watershed Engineering	4
BEE 4750	Environmental Systems Analysis	3
EAS 3010	Evolution of the Earth System	4
EAS 3050	Climate Dynamics	3
EAS 3530	Physical Oceanography	3
EAS 3540	Ocean Satellite Remote Sensing	3
PLSCI 3650	Environmental Chemistry: Soil, Air, and Water	3
EAS 4190	Geofluids	3
EAS 4710	Introduction to Groundwater	3
EAS 4720	Fundamentals of Glaciology	3
EAS 4740	Quantitative Data Analysis for the Geosciences	3
EAS 4870	Introduction to Radar Remote Sensing	3

Environmental Science Focused Elective Field Courses

- EAS 4370 Field Geophysics

Other field options:

- Field courses offered by another college or university with prior advisor approval.¹
- Experience gained participating in field research with Cornell faculty (or REU at another institution)¹
- Advisor-approved Undergraduate Research (EAS 4910/EAS 4920) totaling at least three credits. The research must conclude with formal paper describing results and conclusions or a poster or oral presentation presented at a public venue.

¹ Require pre-approval by the faculty advisor and the EAS Curriculum Committee. These courses/internships/REUs should require observations to be taken in the field and interpreted by the student. Field courses should generally require 40+ hours of active observation and data collection in the field. Students using a non-credit research option for the field course requirement are required to complete an additional EAS concentration course.

Geological Sciences Focused Elective

Geological Science studies processes involved in Earth's origin and evolution, its relationship with the solar system, and its structure and composition. Geological Science is also interconnected to society's needs, including the responsible use of natural resources, preserving the environment, and studying and mitigating natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, etc.). With exponential population growth, we face the challenge of securing resources (water, minerals, food) sustainably. The focused elective on Geological Science focused elective focuses the Earth's fundamental processes with numerical, analytical, field, and communications skills needed to conduct scientific

research and work on solving some of the most critical challenges of the 21st century. The focused elective requirements and flexibility to design your curriculum with many specialized focused elective courses to choose from, and field and lab opportunities provide excellent preparation for graduate school and careers in the geoscience industry, sustainable use of resources, land use planning, material science, remote sensing, law, etc. The gorgeous landscape of New York's Finger Lakes and the proximity to the Adirondack mountains provide natural laboratories to study geologic processes in the field as well as field opportunities abroad. The program features small classes with personalized mentorship offered by our world-class faculty.

Code	Title	Hours
Geological Sciences Core Required Courses-Must take all		
EAS 2250	The Earth System	4
EAS 3090	Earth Materials	3
EAS 3880	Global Geophysics	3
EAS 3010	Evolution of the Earth System	4

Code	Title	Hours
Geological Science Focused Elective Courses (5 courses)		
EAS 4010	Fundamentals of Energy and Mineral Resources	3
EAS 4040	Geodynamics	3
EAS 4050	Active Tectonics and Structural Geology	3
EAS 4060	Geodesy	3
EAS 4550	Geochemistry	3
EAS 4561	Isotope Geochemistry	3
EAS 4580	Volcanology	3
EAS 4720	Fundamentals of Glaciology	3
EAS 4740	Quantitative Data Analysis for the Geosciences	3
EAS 4790	Paleobiology	4
EAS 4840	Inverse Methods in the Natural Sciences	3
EAS 5770	Planetary Surface Processes	3

Geological Science focused elective Field Courses

- EAS 4370 Field Geophysics

Other field options:

- Field courses offered by another college or university with prior advisor approval.¹
- Experience gained participating in field research with Cornell faculty (or REU at another institution)¹
- Advisor-approved Undergraduate Research (EAS 4910/EAS 4920) totaling at least three credits. The research must conclude with formal paper describing results and conclusions or a poster or oral presentation presented at a public venue.

¹ Require pre-approval by the faculty advisor and the EAS Curriculum Committee. These courses/internships/REUs should require observations to be taken in the field and interpreted by the student. Field courses should generally require 40+ hours of active observation and data collection in the field. Students using a non-credit research option for the field course requirement are required to complete an additional EAS concentration course.

Ocean Sciences Focused Elective

The field of ocean science encompasses four subdisciplines covering marine geology, marine chemistry, physical oceanography, and biological oceanography. There is a strong interdisciplinary overlap among all four of these sub-disciplines. An EAS focused elective in ocean sciences touches on all four subdisciplines but is often tailored to emphasize one of the sub-disciplines over the other three. Marine geology often involves the study of seafloor processes associated with plate tectonic motion (e.g., spreading centers and seafloor subduction). It may also address the issue of coastal erosion and the impact of sea-level rise on coastline stability. Marine chemistry involves the study of global-scale cycles of the major elements on earth such as carbon or nitrogen. Or it might involve the use of chemical tracers to delineate deep ocean water mass movements. More recently, this discipline has been in a race to understand human-caused ocean acidification and ocean de-oxygenation resulting from global warming. Physical oceanography is the study of fluid dynamics at geophysical scales. This involves the study of coastal wave dynamics, coastal upwelling, open-ocean eddies, air-sea exchanges of heat, freshwater and momentum or global-scale heat transport via meridional overturning circulation (aka, conveyor belt circulation). Biological oceanography is the study of marine food webs and their role in the global biogeochemical cycling of major elements. More recently, biological oceanographers have been in a race to understand the impacts of global warming and ocean acidification on marine ecosystems.

Code	Title	Hours
Ocean Sciences Core Required Courses-Must take all		
EAS 2250	The Earth System	4
EAS 3050	Climate Dynamics	3
EAS 3530	Physical Oceanography	3
EAS 3030	Introduction to Biogeochemistry	4
Ocean Sciences Focused Elective Courses (5 courses)		
EAS 3010	Evolution of the Earth System	4
EAS 3420	Atmospheric Dynamics	3
EAS 3540	Ocean Satellite Remote Sensing	3
EAS 3555	Marine Microbes and Disease in a Changing Ocean	3
EAS 4720	Fundamentals of Glaciology	3

Ocean Sciences Field Courses

Exposure to the basic observations of earth science in the field is necessary to fully understand the chosen area of focused elective in the major. A minimum of 3 credits of appropriate coursework is required, although more experience with fieldwork is encouraged. Students can choose from the following course options.

- Shoals Marine Lab Courses (<https://www.shoalsmarinelaboratory.org/academics/undergraduate/courses>)
- Sea Education Association Courses (<https://sea.edu/>)
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Courses (<https://www.whoi.edu/>)

Other field options:

- Field courses offered by another college or university with prior advisor approval.¹
- Experience gained participating in field research with Cornell faculty (or REU at another institution)¹
- Advisor-approved Undergraduate Research (EAS 4910/EAS 4920) totaling at least three credits. The research must conclude with

formal paper describing results and conclusions or a poster or oral presentation presented at a public venue.

¹ Field course options marked by an asterisk (*) require pre-approval by the faculty advisor and the EAS Curriculum Committee. These courses/internships/REUs should require observations to be taken in the field and interpreted by the student. Field courses should generally require 40+ hours of active observation and data collection in the field. Students using a non-credit research option for the field course requirement are required to complete an additional EAS concentration course.

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 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 (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/courses/pe/>) by the Department of Athletics and Physical Education 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 in 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.

Duffield College of Engineering Graduation Requirements Undergraduate Study

Students in the Cornell Duffield 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 Duffield Engineering Majors are listed on the Duffield 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 Duffield College of Engineering Programs page (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/engineering/#programstext>) for a listing of Undergraduate Minors.

Duffield Engineering Core Requirements - Engineering Major

Duffield 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 Cornell Duffield 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. (<https://cornellengineeringhandbook.freeflowdp.com/cornellengineeringhandbook/library/>))

Course Category	Credits
Mathematics (major-specific) ¹	14-16
Physics (major-specific) ¹	8-13
Chemistry (major-specific) ¹	4-8
Fourth Science (major-specific) ¹	3-4
First-year Writing seminars	≥6
Engineering Communications ²	1-3
Computing	4
Engineering Distribution	
a. One introduction to engineering (ENGRI)	3-4
b. Two different category engineering distributions (ENGRD)	6-8
Liberal studies distribution	≥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)	

¹ The total number of math and science credits must be ≥29 credits.

² 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 Duffield 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 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 are eligible to start the physics sequence (PHYS 1112, PHYS 1110, PHYS 2213, and PHYS 2214, depending on the major), based on completion of math prerequisites, 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. CS 1132 and CS 1133 cannot substitute for the Computing requirement but can count toward Advisor Approved electives.

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 Communications Requirement for Cornell Duffield 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 3600	Communicating Data for Engineers	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. Students should begin organizing this request the semester prior to being on-site for the co-op or internship. Not offered AY 2026-2027.

3. Enroll in and pass ENGR 3023

Students must apply for and pass this 1-credit attachment to a 3-credit or 4-credit engineering course in a major that is not one of the officially designated W-I or C-I courses. Engineering instructors may occasionally wish to extend communication opportunities 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. The highest grade possible for ENGR 3341 is an "A." 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 engrcomm_info@cornell.edu, requesting the full ENGR 3023 information and application packet. Please insert "3023 request" in the subject line.

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

4. Enroll in and pass ENGR 3341.

Students must apply for and pass this 1-credit opportunity, where the student is guided by a Cornell Duffield Engineering professor on a directed, semester-long project. Sometimes, a student may be involved in a significant amount of engineering or technical communication elsewhere in Duffield Engineering. In these cases, it may be possible to petition the CCGB's Subcommittee on Engineering Communications for permission to use this work for future projects (not past ones) to meet the Engineering Communications Requirement.

Students and their mentoring Engineering faculty should plan ahead for this option. To request the information packet and application form, email engrcomm_info@cornell.edu with "3341 request" in the subject line. For questions or to schedule an appointment, email the same address.

Please note that this option does not fulfill the Liberal Studies requirement, even with a petition. The highest grade possible for ENGR 3341 is an "A." Because it is a 1-credit course, it cannot be used to meet a Liberal Studies requirement, even by petition.

- All 3341 paperwork must be submitted by the last Wednesday of January for consideration for Spring semester consideration.
- All 3341 paperwork must be submitted by the last Wednesday of August for consideration for Fall semester consideration.
- Students who are approved will enroll in a 1cr graded course using a PIN provided by the Engineering Communications Program Director.

5. 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 ENRGRC course (one credit). The below courses do not count toward the Liberal Studies requirement for engineers, even via petition:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGR 3152	Communication for Game Development ²	1
ENGR 3610	Communication for Transportation Engineering ³	1
ENGR 4152	Communication for Advanced Game Development ⁴	1
ENGR 4590	Physical Design Communication in Biological Engineering ⁵	1

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

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

³ 1cr partnered with CEE 3610 Introduction to Transportation Engineering

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

⁵ 1cr partnered with BEE 4590 Physical Design in Biological Engineering

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
CHEM 4320	Chemical Engineering Capstone Design I	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/>).

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

The Common Curriculum requires three distribution courses (=>9 credits). One Introduction to Engineering course and two distribution courses.

Introduction to Engineering:

An introduction to engineering course (designated ENGR1) 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.

Two engineering distribution (ENGRD) courses (6–8 credits) must be selected from two different categories listed below.

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)	5
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 2400	Observing the Earth: Remote Sensing and GIS	3
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
BIOMG 3300	Principles of Biochemistry, Individualized Instruction	4

or BIOMG 3310 Principles of Biochemistry: Proteins and Metabolism

or BIOMG 3350 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 (<https://www.engineering.cornell.edu/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
- To review (CE-EN) distribution requirement definition and course list, please visit the Duffield College of Engineering Distribution Requirement List (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/enrollment-credit-requirements/distribution-codes/engineering/>) section of this catalog

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 Catalog 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 advisor¹). Courses must be =>1100 level to count toward the degree. Some courses =>1100 cannot count toward the degree such

as MATH 1110 or MATH 1900 or CS 1109 since these are courses that are lower than where the degree requirements in the curriculum begin. 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.
- **Electives outside the major:** 9 credits of courses outside the major to ensure breadth of engineering studies; these courses may be subject to major specific requirements for appropriateness.

¹ 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	8
Select two of the following:		
CHEM 2080 & CHEM 2081	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory ^{1,2}	4
CHEM 2090 & CHEM 2091	Engineering General Chemistry and Engineering General Chemistry Laboratory ^{1,2}	4
PHYS 1112	Physics I: Mechanics and Heat	3
PHYS 1110	Introduction to Experimental Physics	1
PHYS 2213	Physics II: Electromagnetism	4
PHYS 2214	Physics III: Oscillations, Waves, and Quantum Physics (or the Honors equivalent) ^{1,2}	4
One of: CS 111X		4
Two first-year writing seminars		6
One introduction to engineering (ENGRI) course		3-4
Two physical education courses and the university swim competency		2

¹ Depends on the major.

² 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 possible. 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 ≥ 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 Duffield Engineering, and therefore Cornell.

Biological Engineering ¹

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.

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 ≥ 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 (ENGR 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 ≥ 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 ≥ 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 ≥ 2.3 between MATH 1920 and any other completed critical math course(s): MATH 2940, MATH 4710, 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 ≥ 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 Engineering¹

GPA ≥ 2.0 in all math, science, and engineering courses. At least C- in BEE 2510/ENGRD 2510.

Independent Major

An Independent Major (IM) Application Form is required with full support from two faculty advisors, one from the proposed Primary Area and one from the proposed Secondary Area. Open to undergraduate students who wish to apply and affiliate with the IM, or students already affiliated with an engineering major who wish to change their major to the IM, or students from another college at Cornell who wish to internally transfer to the IM.

Students must complete three semesters in the engineering curriculum and are encouraged to apply by the end of their sophomore year.

Applications are accepted from sophomore year through senior year. Completion of MATH 1910, MATH 1920, and one ENGRD with at least a C-. A cumulative GPA of at least a 2.2 required. 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 ≥ 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 (including AP or transfer), when applying for affiliation: MATH 1910, MATH 1920, MATH 2930, MATH 2940 (all with a minimum grade of C-), PHYS 1112/PHYS 1116, PHYS 2213/PHYS 2217, CHEM 2090 & CHEM 2091, and CS 1110/CS 1112.

Additionally, students must have at least a grade of C in the category 2 (Materials Sciences) ENGRD course used for affiliation, and have a cumulative GPA ≥ 2.0 in the completed required math, physics, chemistry, computing, and (if taken) MSE 2010, MSE 2030, and MSE 2060 courses.

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 ≥ 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.

¹ 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.

Learning Outcomes

- Obtain working knowledge of scientific method.
- Discover the way that data are collected.
- Construct and evaluate scientific hypotheses from Earth sciences data.
- Design, conduct and analyze experiments to test hypotheses.
- Collect, analyze, and interpret field and laboratory data.
- Identify, formulate, and solve scientific problems using appropriate mathematical tools.
- Compile and interpret spatial and temporal earth science data.
- Explain and assess important concepts in the chosen concentration.
- Utilize computer systems and programming to find, analyze and present data and evaluate hypotheses.
- Communicate the earth sciences effectively in written and oral mediums.
- Demonstrate the ability to work in teams.
- Have a broad education, including liberal studies.