College of Engineering

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Carnegie Institute of Technology (CIT), the engineering college of the university, has three main activities - undergraduate education, graduate education, and research. Its continuing goal has been to maintain excellence in all these activities. The degree to which this goal has been achieved is attested to by the demand for its graduates, the success of its alumni, the quality of its students and faculty, the adoption elsewhere of its innovations, and the national and international recognition it receives in educational and research activities.

The college offers the degree of bachelor of science in chemical engineering, civil engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, and materials science and engineering. All of these programs are accredited by ABET, www.abet.org (http://www.abet.org).

An engineering student may also choose to pursue a minor in one of the CIT designated minor programs, or a double major in engineering and public policy or biomedical engineering, or to design a minor, additional major or dual-degree programs with other non-engineering departments.

Educational Objectives

The overarching objective of our engineering curriculum is to provide our students an education that enables them to be productive and fulfilled professionals throughout their careers. Our more specific, measurable objectives for graduates of our engineering curriculum are the following:

- Graduates recognize that they acquired a high quality, rigorous technical education from the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon.
- Graduates, in addition to their technical knowledge, recognize that they have acquired a broader body of knowledge that allows them to understand the larger context of the problems that they must address during their career.
- Graduates use their technical foundation and their broader base of knowledge to be successful in a diverse collection of individual careers inside and outside of the engineering profession.

From its earliest days, Carnegie Institute of Technology (CIT) has considered undergraduate education to be the key element in the development of future leaders. In this regard, CIT has adopted a plan for education that is designed to equip students with the capacity to learn and to continue the process of self-education throughout their lives. The present curriculum incorporates this philosophy by providing the opportunity for both breadth in a number of engineering, science, humanities and fine arts areas as well as depth in a major area of concentration. To achieve these goals, our flexible curriculum has been designed to allow students to customize their program to suit their needs and to help each student acquire:

- A thorough and integrated understanding of fundamental knowledge in fields of a student’s major interest and the ability to use this knowledge;
- Competence in the orderly way of thinking, which professionals and scientists have always used in reaching sound, creative conclusions, with the goal that after graduation the student can, by such thinking, reach decisions both as a professional and as a citizen;
- An ability to learn independently with scholarly orderliness, so that after graduation the student will be able to grow in wisdom and keep abreast of the changing knowledge and problems of the profession and the society in which he or she participates;
- The philosophical outlook, breadth of knowledge, and sense of values which will increase the student’s understanding and enjoyment of life and enable each student to recognize and deal effectively with the human, economic, ethical and social aspects of professional problems; and
- The ability to communicate ideas to others in a comprehensive and understandable manner.

The curriculum encourages students to confront professional problems, accomplished through team and problem-oriented courses, as well as courses which emphasize design or individual projects. These classes stress creativity and independent thought and require the student to define the problem, propose a solution or a design in the presence of technical and socioeconomic constraints, to make judgments among alternative solutions, and to explore innovative alternatives to more conventional solutions.

First Year for Engineering Students

The Carnegie Mellon engineering education is based on engineering and science fundamentals that give students the skills to face new and challenging situations. The first year in engineering provides a broad foundation upon which students build a curriculum in their eventual major. Since students in CIT do not select a major until the end of the first year, all first year students share a common experience consisting of introductory courses in the engineering majors (one each semester), calculus, physics, other science courses which complements specific introductory engineering courses, and courses in the liberal arts, fine arts, business, and social sciences. This curriculum helps make an informed decision about a final major. Below is an example of a standard schedule for a first-year engineering student.

Fall Semester
Introductory Engineering Elective 12
Restricted Technical Elective 9-12
Differential and Integral Calculus 10
General Education 9
Computing @ Carnegie Mellon 3

Spring semester
Introductory Engineering Elective 12
Restricted Technical Elective 10
Integration, Differential Equations, Approximation 10
General Education Course 9

Notes:
1. Each semester every CIT department offers its Introductory Engineering Elective. Every first year CIT student must select one such course each semester.
2. Each Introductory Engineering Elective requires a specific Restricted Technical Elective (as a pre- or co-requisite) as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introductory Engineering Course</th>
<th>Restricted Technical Elective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>03-121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>09-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil &amp; Environmental Engineering</td>
<td>33-141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</td>
<td>15-110 or 15-112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering &amp; Public Policy</td>
<td>33-141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>33-141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>33-141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. All students must complete 33-141 Physics I for Engineering Students by the end of the first year. Therefore, if a student chooses to take Introduction to Chemical Engineering (with 09-105 as a co-requisite) during one semester and Introduction to Electrical and Computer Engineering (with 15-110 as a co-requisite), the student must take 33-141 in place of the General Education requirement in the Spring semester of the first year and take the General Education course in a subsequent semester. Alternatively, a student entering the university with AP credit in a required first year course may substitute 33-141 in its place.
4. CIT students must complete the First-Year Writing requirement in their freshman year. View more information (p. 1).

General Education Programs

The environment in which today’s engineering graduates will find themselves working is evolving rapidly. Technical innovation is becoming ever more critical to retaining a competitive edge. This is true for individuals, for firms and for nations. Start-ups, as well as established companies, have significant international opportunities but also face more competition in a global economy. Seizing these opportunities and dealing with the associated challenges requires an understanding of the global
context in which engineers work, as well as understanding multi-disciplinary approaches to technological innovation across cultures.

The College of Engineering has developed General Education Requirements designed to ensure that our students are ready to work effectively in the global economy, and become the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

Classes of 2021 - Later

All requirements for 2021+ remain the same as 2016-2020 except the following changes:

All undergraduate students must complete the First-Year Writing requirement — the Department of English does not accept any Advanced Placement exemptions. This requirement can be completed in two different ways:

- **Option 1:** Enroll in one of two full-semester courses (9 units each)
  - 76-101 Interpretation and Argument (Students for whom English is a second language may need to take 76-100 Reading and Writing in an Academic Context first. The English department will contact those students.)
  - 76-102 Advanced First Year Writing: Special Topics: (by invitation only)

- **Option 2:** Enroll in two of three half-semester “mini” courses* (4.5 units each)
  - 76-106 Writing about Literature, Art and Culture
  - 76-107 Writing about Data
  - 76-108 Writing about Public Problems

*Minis should be completed back-to-back within a single semester.

**General Education Electives (3 total)**

At least 27 units from any non-technical academic courses from the Dietrich College, College of Fine Arts, and the Tepper School of Business excluding those listed on the General Education Exclusions page (https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/undergraduate-programs/curriculum/general-education/exclusions.html). Courses from this list of non-technical courses outside of the Dietrich College or the College of Fine Arts (https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/undergraduate-programs/curriculum/general-education/non-dietrich-cfa-courses.html) may also be counted. A maximum of 18 units of these units may be fulfilled via AP/IB/Cambridge exam credit.

For category course lists reference the CIT General Education website (https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/undergraduate-programs/curriculum/general-education).

**Classes of 2016 - 2020**

Complete the following requirements to graduate (72 units):

1. **76-101 Interpretation and Argument** (some students may need to take 76-100 first)
2. One course from the following list:
   - 73-230 Intermediate Microeconomics **9**
   - 84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions **9**
   - 85-102 Introduction to Psychology **9**
   - 79-104 Global Histories **9**
   - one other PPC or SDM course (defined below) or a 100-level Modern Language course

Students must complete each of the categories (descriptions of categories follow below). This is a 9-unit requirement. Any course taken on this list that is below 9 units must be combined with an additional course to total at least 9 units in order to complete this requirement.

**Note that the units from one course cannot be split to count for two General Education categories (eg PPC and General Education Elective).**

- **Innovation & Internationalization (I&I)**
  - 9 units from the I&I list of courses (which could be two 4.5 unit courses);

- **Peoples, Places, and Cultures (PPC)**
  - 9 units from the PPC list; or a 9-12 unit course in a modern language at the 200+ level (Students can receive exemption through an approved study abroad program. These students would have three General Education Electives to complete instead of two.)

- **Social Analysis and Decision Making (SDM)**
  - 9 units from the SDM list of courses (which could be two 4.5 unit courses)

- **Writing and Expression (W&E)**
  - 9 units from the W&E list of courses (in addition to 76-101)

**General Education Electives (2 total)**

- At least 18 units (any combination) from the four categories: I&I, PPC, SDM or W&E, or non-technical academic courses (https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/undergraduate-programs/curriculum/general-education/non-dietrich-cfa-courses.html) from the Dietrich College or the College of Fine Arts excluding those listed on the CIT website (https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/undergraduate-programs/curriculum/general-education/exclusions.html).

**Experiential Learning (EL)**

- 6 EL points by participating in a variety of approved activities in the following timeframe:
  - 2 points sophomore fall semester (39-210)
  - 2 points sophomore spring semester (39-220)
  - 2 points junior fall semester (39-310)

**Category Descriptions**

**People, Places and Cultures (PPC)**

PPC courses are designed to help you gain better understanding of the diversity of the world in which we live, and the way in which societal factors interact to shape that world.

**Social Analysis and Decision Making (SDM)**

SDM courses are focused on helping you to gain an understanding of different ways in which individuals and societies approach and make decisions.

**Innovation and Internationalization (I&I)**

I&I courses are intended to provide a broad perspective regarding the creation of pioneering ideas and their outcomes in a global context.

**Experiential Learning (EL)**

Being curious and constantly looking for inspiration are critical parts of lifelong learning. To be successful as an engineer and as a citizen, your education must not stop when you graduate from Carnegie Mellon. The EL requirement aims to encourage a habit of lifelong learning about innovation and the growing internationalization in engineering and, indeed of many other aspects of the modern world. The goal of this requirement is to help inspire the habits of being open to new ideas as successful, innovative engineers.

To do that, during both semesters of your sophomore year, and the first semester of your junior year, we require you to choose a few related activities that are not part of your formal course work. Examples could include:

- Attending approved seminars and then submitting a one page write up of your thoughts on what you heard;
- Holding an official leadership position (i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) in a Carnegie Mellon sponsored organization.

**Additional Majors and Dual Degrees in CIT**

A major is defined as a program that must be completed for the granting of a degree. Additional majors comprise a single degree with majors in two separate areas; for example, the degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and an additional major in English. Although the additional major requires the completion of two designated programs, they may have overlapping requirements that can be met simultaneously. The general principle used to measure eligibility for a Carnegie Institute of Technology additional major is that the major (core) requirements of both departments must be completed. Finally, although the student is formally enrolled as an undergraduate in one of the departments (the parent department, which is responsible for scheduling and other administrative actions for
Academic Standards

Grading Practices
For undergraduate grading regulations, please see Undergraduate Academic Regulations (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/aboutcmu/undergraduateacademicregulations).

CIT Dean’s Honor List
Each semester, Carnegie Institute of Technology recognizes students who have earned outstanding academic records by naming them on the dean’s honor list. The criterion for such recognition is a semester quality point average of at least 3.75 while completing at least 36 factorable units and earning no incomplete grades.

Transfer into CIT Departments
Undergraduate students admitted to colleges other than CIT who wish to transfer into a CIT department during their first year should consult with an advisor in the Undergraduate Studies Office in the CIT Dean’s Office. Students admitted to CIT but excluded from certain departments must also consult with the CIT Dean’s Office if they wish to transfer into a restricted CIT department.

First-year students can apply for transfer after mid-semester grades for the spring semester have been posted. At that time, a decision will be based on availability of space and the student’s academic performance.

CIT undergraduate students beyond the first year wishing to transfer into another CIT department may apply if they are in good academic standing and if there is room in the department of their choice. If the demand for any department exceeds the space available, then the department will admit students based on a comparative evaluation of all applicants at the end of each semester, up to the limit of available space.

Undergraduate students not in CIT who wish to transfer into a CIT department beyond the first year will be considered for transfer on a rolling space available/academic performance basis.

Criteria for all applicants include space in the department, good academic standing, and successful completion of or being currently enrolled in at least one introductory to engineering course (minimally the one of the target major), the appropriate science co-requisite, math (21-120, 21-122) and Physics 1 (33-141, 33-111, or 33-131).

Procedure for transfer of students from another university into CIT departments: A student first applies through the Office of Admission. If the Office of Admission believes the applicant is acceptable, the student’s record is sent to the CIT Undergraduate Studies Office for evaluation and a decision on acceptance/rejection is made in consultation with the target department.

Academic Actions
In order to maintain good academic standing, CIT students must attain at least minimum quality point averages for each semester (as well as cumulatively) and also maintain adequate progress toward completing graduation requirements. Minimum quality point averages for good academic standing are 1.75 each semester in the freshman year and 2.00 thereafter. “Adequate academic progress toward graduation” generally means that students are successfully completing approximately 45-55 units per semester so that at the end of eight semesters they will have accumulated the minimum units required for graduation, have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00, and have completed all degree requirements.

When a student fails to meet minimum performance criteria, it normally results in an academic action. Depending on the circumstances, one of the following actions is taken: academic probation, continued probation, suspension, or drop. These academic actions are recommended by the college’s departments, based on the guidelines described below, and adjudicated by the CIT Undergraduate Studies Office. However, the sequence of the academic actions is not automatic in all cases. Decisions may be based on unique individual student performance and circumstances, and are not determined solely on the basis of grades and quality point averages.

Probation
A student is on academic probation when performance either for the semester or cumulatively fails to meet the minimum standard. The term of academic probation is one semester, and signifies to the student the college’s insistence that academic performance return to at least the minimum acceptable level. A student is removed from academic probation...
Graduation Requirements
To be eligible to graduate, undergraduate students must complete all course requirements for their department with a cumulative Quality Point Average of at least 2.0 for all courses taken. For undergraduate students who enrolled at Carnegie Mellon as freshman and whose freshman grades cause the cumulative QPA to fall below 2.0, this requirement is modified to be a cumulative QPA of at least 2.0 for all courses taken after the freshman year. Note, however, the cumulative QPA that appears on the student’s final transcript will be calculated based on all grades in all courses taken, including freshman year. Some departments may have additional QPA requirements in order to graduate. Students are encouraged to confirm all graduation requirements with their academic advisor.