CIVIL ENGINEERING (ENGINEERING)

Graduate Program Head
Patrick J. Fox

Program Code
CE

Campus(es)
University Park (Ph.D., M.S., M.Eng.)

Degrees Conferred
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Master of Science (M.S.)
Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)
Dual-Title Ph.D., M.S., and M.Eng. in Operations Research

The Graduate Faculty
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/index.cfm?searchType=fac&prog=CE)

Students may specialize in:
- Environmental engineering
- Geotechnical and materials engineering
- Structural engineering
- Transportation engineering
- Water resources engineering

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Grad School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Candidates should possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution. Students in engineering, physical sciences, or mathematics with a 3.00 grade-point average (on a 4.00 scale) may be considered for admission. Exceptions to the minimum 3.00 grade-point average may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests. Students without a baccalaureate degree in engineering would be admitted on a provisional basis (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission) pending successful completion of entrance requirements (completed concurrently with degree requirements).

U.S. applicants will upload official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission), a statement of objectives, and three references for letters of recommendation when applying to the program. In addition, all applicants must submit scores from the General Graduate Record Examinations Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical). For the M.Eng. degree, the GRE requirement will be waived for students who have graduated with a degree from the College of Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University with a cumulative grade-point average of greater than 3.30.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students) for more information.

Application Deadlines

M.Eng.: Complete applications including required supplementary materials (e.g., official transcripts, reference letters) should be submitted by March 15th of the calendar year for admission in Fall semester. International students are strongly encouraged to submit complete applications early to allow sufficient time for visa processing.

M.S. and Ph.D.: Complete applications including required supplementary materials (e.g., official transcripts, reference letters) should be submitted by September 15th for admission in Spring semester and by December 15th for admission in Fall semester. International students are strongly encouraged to submit complete applications early to allow sufficient time for visa processing.

Degree Requirements

Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)
Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

The M.Eng. degree is a non-thesis professional master's degree. The program provides training for advanced professional practice. A minimum of 31 credits (400, 500, or 800) of course work are required. At least 18 credits must be earned in graduate courses (500 level). At least 12 credits must be earned in courses with the CE prefix. At least 20 credits must be earned at an established graduate campus of the University. All students are required to take CE 835 to fulfill the requirement for a culminating experience. All students are required to take the 1-credit CE 590 and complete all requirements for Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) training. The M.Eng. degree is designed as a one-year master's degree program and students are required to start their degree in the Fall semester. The preferred plan of study is as follows:

- Fall semester: Fifteen credits of course work plus one credit of CE 590
- Spring semester: Fifteen credits of course work, including CE 835

Students entering the M.Eng. degree must select and declare an area of specialization, where each area has specific core course requirements. The three areas of specialization are:

1. Infrastructure
2. Transportation Systems
3. Water and Environment

Continuous registration is required for all M.Eng. students until the course requirements have been satisfied.

Master of Science (M.S.)
Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

The M.S. degree program is strongly oriented toward research. A thesis is required, and at least 6 credits of thesis research (CE 600 or CE 610) must be included in the candidate's academic course plan. A minimum of 31 credits at the 400, 500, 600, or 800 level are required, of which 20 must be earned at an established graduate campus of the University. A minimum of 24 credits of course work are required. A minimum of 12 credits of course work (400 and 500 level) must be completed in the major (courses
Continuous registration is required for all M.S. students until the thesis has been approved.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

All students are required to take the 1-credit CE 590 Colloquium and complete all requirements for Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) training.

Ph.D. students must pass the English proficiency and qualifying examinations, prepare and defend the dissertation proposal as part of the oral comprehensive examination, and pass the final oral examination (dissertation defense). Prior to completion of the Ph.D. program, the student must spend at least two consecutive semesters as a registered full-time student.

Continuous registration is required for all Ph.D. students until the dissertation has been approved.

**Dual-Titles**

**Dual-Title M.Eng., M.S., and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Operations Research**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs).

**Admission Requirements**

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Civil Engineering and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Operations Research dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Operations Research Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/operations-research). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Operations Research prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

**Degree Requirements**

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in Civil Engineering, listed on the Degree Requirements tab. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Operations Research, listed on the Operations Research Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/operations-research).

The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of Graduate Faculty from Civil Engineering and must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from the Operations Research program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both Civil Engineering and Operations Research. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for dissertation committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation), the dissertation committee of a Civil Engineering and Operations Research dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the Operations Research Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the dissertation committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Operations Research, the member of the committee representing Operations Research must be appointed as co-chair. The Operations Research representative on the student’s dissertation committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their dissertation committee and reflects their original research and education in Civil Engineering and Operations Research. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the dissertation committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

**Student Aid**

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

International applicants who wish to be considered for a teaching assistantship must present an acceptable score (250-300 or 55-60) on the Test of Spoken English (TSE). The TSE can be taken in many countries, or at Penn State after arrival. The Department offers a number of graduate fellowships.

**Courses**

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Civil Engineering (CE) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/ce)
## Contact

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| Program Website | View (http://www.engr.psu.edu/ce) |