Degree Requirements

Undergraduate Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees awarded by the School of Engineering & Applied Science include two categories: engineering/computer science degrees and applied science degrees.

Engineering/computer science degrees include the following:
- BS in Biomedical Engineering
- BS in Chemical Engineering
- BS in Computer Engineering
- BS in Computer Science
- BS in Electrical Engineering
- BS in Mechanical Engineering
- BS in Systems Science & Engineering

Applied science degrees include the following:
- BS Major in Applied Science (Chemical Engineering)
- BS Major in Applied Science (CS+Math)
- BS Major in Applied Science (Electrical Engineering)
- BS Major in Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering)
- BS Major in Applied Science (Systems Science & Engineering)

Engineering Bachelor of Science Degrees

To earn any of the following engineering degrees: BS in Biomedical Engineering, BS in Chemical Engineering, BS in Computer Engineering, BS in Electrical Engineering, BS in Mechanical Engineering, BS in Systems Science & Engineering, a student must satisfy all of the following general distribution requirements:

1. Complete the engineering Common Studies courses outlined below:
   a. Calculus (Math 131, Math 132, Math 217, Math 233)
   b. Physics I (Physics 197) and Physics II (Physics 198)
   c. Chemistry (Chem 111A, Chem 151)
      Note 1: Some programs also require Chem 112A and Chem 152.
      Note 2: The BS in Computer Engineering program permits alternate science courses to satisfy this requirement.
   d. Technical Writing (Engr 310)

2. Satisfy the specific degree requirements of one of the engineering degree programs, as outlined in other sections of this Bulletin.

3. Satisfy the requirements listed under All Undergraduate Degrees (below).

Applied Science Bachelor of Science Degrees

To earn any of the following degrees: BS in Applied Science (Chemical Engineering), BS in Applied Science (CS+Math), BS in Applied Science (Electrical Engineering), BS in Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering), BS in Applied Science (Systems Science & Engineering), BS in Computer Science, a student must satisfy all of the following general distribution requirements:

1. Complete at least 120 applicable units.
2. Complete at least 48 units of the 120 in mathematics, natural sciences and engineering.
3. Complete at least 42 of the total 120 units at the 300 level or higher.
4. Satisfy the specific degree requirements of one of the applied science degree programs, as outlined in other sections of this Bulletin.
5. Satisfy the requirements outlined under All Undergraduate Degrees.

Note: Diplomas for Applied Science degrees state “Bachelor of Science” and do not indicate the major on the diploma. The major (e.g., Chemical Engineering) is posted on the official transcript.

All Undergraduate Degrees

To earn any undergraduate degree in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, a student must accomplish all the following:

1. Earn at least a C (2.0) cumulative grade point average in all applicable courses taken at Washington University.
2. Earn at least the minimum total number of units specified for the particular degree. All degrees require students to complete at least 120 applicable units.
3. Earn at least a C (2.0) grade point average in all engineering courses taken.
4. Satisfy all of the following residency requirements:
   a. Complete a minimum of 30 units of 200-level or higher courses from the school, while matriculated at Washington University in a degree program. An engineering course transferring from an exchange program sanctioned by the School of Engineering & Applied Science may be counted as a school equivalent course for the purpose of satisfying this requirement.
   b. Complete a minimum of 60 units at Washington University, while matriculated at Washington University in a degree program. Exchange program courses sanctioned by the school may be counted toward this requirement.
   c. For students who pursue multiple engineering BS degrees, for each additional BS degree from the school,
students must complete an additional 15 resident units of 200-level or higher courses from the school, which are in addition to the 30 units of 200-level or higher engineering courses that are listed in 4a above. No more than two BS degrees from the School of Engineering & Applied Science may be earned by the same student.

5. Complete the English proficiency requirement, and the humanities and social sciences requirement, of the School of Engineering & Applied Science.

**English Proficiency Requirement**

Every student must demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing the English language. Students are considered proficient if they have earned a 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) English Language or Literature Examination of the College Board. First-year Engineering students who haven’t earned a 5 on the AP English exam are given an opportunity to take a Writing Placement Exam (WPE) in August. Proficiency is commonly demonstrated by satisfactory performance on this Writing Placement Exam administered by the School of Engineering & Applied Science.

Students who do not demonstrate satisfactory proficiency on the WPE are required to enroll the following semester in a course or sequence of courses specified by the test’s administrator. The school’s English proficiency requirement is then satisfied only by a grade of C- or better in one of the approved School of Engineering & Applied Science college writing courses, with the standard course being CWP 100 College Writing 1. Additional courses currently approved include: CWP 102 Citizen Scientist; Writing 103 What is Justice?; Writing 104 Writing Identity. Courses taken at other institutions to satisfy the school’s English proficiency requirement must be preapproved by the school’s English proficiency coordinator. If the course is so approved, the student must pass with a grade of C- or better. Waivers of the English proficiency requirement via AP scores or the WPE do not carry degree credit.

The English proficiency requirement must be completed as soon as possible. Undergraduate students who have not yet satisfied this requirement must enroll in College Writing 1 (or an approved alternative course) at the first possible opportunity, commonly their first spring semester.

Before enrolling in College Writing 1, some students may be required to complete CWP 1001 Fundamentals of Academic Writing or CWP 200 Writing Tutorial or ELP 1511 Critical Reading and Analytical Writing; these courses will not be counted toward the student’s degree requirements.

**Humanities and Social Sciences Requirement**

To earn any bachelor's degree from the School of Engineering & Applied Science, students must complete the school's humanities and social sciences requirement:

1. Minimum units: At least 18 units of humanities and social sciences courses must be completed with passing grades. Humanities and social sciences courses, other than transfer courses, may be taken for pass/fail credit.

2. Breadth: At least 6 units of the 18 must be in the humanities and at least 6 units must be in the social sciences.

3. Upper-level: At least 3 units of the 18 units completed must be from one or more courses numbered 300 or higher.

Washington University courses labeled with the EN:H or EN:S attribute in the semester course listings will count respectively toward the humanities or social sciences requirement for engineering degrees. As a convenience, preapproved listings of humanities and social sciences courses are provided for Architecture (http://registrar.seas.wustl.edu/EVALS/evals.asp?school=WASHINGTON%20UNIV-DESIGN%20AND%20VISUAL%20ARTS-ARCHITECTURE), Business (http://registrar.seas.wustl.edu/EVALS/evals.asp?school=WASHINGTON%20UNIV-OLIN%20COURSES%20Reviewed-H/SS/EN%20Topics) and University College (http://registrar.seas.wustl.edu/EVALS/evals.asp?school=WASHINGTON%20UNIV-UNIV%20COLLEGE%20(Beginning%208/25/14)). In general, most if not all art courses (F10 and F20) will count toward the engineering school’s humanities requirement, even if they do not have the specific EN:H designation.

Transfer courses must be approved through Engineering Undergraduate Student Services as acceptable transfer credit (http://engineering.wustl.edu/current-students/student-services/Pages/transfer-course-credit.aspx) and as applicable humanities or social sciences courses. All transfer courses must be taken for credit (not pass/fail), and students must earn a C- or better in transfer courses for the credit to transfer to the school. Grades do not transfer.

Advanced Placement (AP) credit and International Baccalaureate (IB) credit approved through Engineering Undergraduate Student Services may be used to satisfy all or part of the breadth requirement (i.e., humanities 6-unit requirement and/or the social science 6-unit requirement); however, AP and IB credit may not be used to satisfy the 18 minimum units needed to satisfy the school’s overall humanities and social sciences requirement. Students may individually petition Engineering Undergraduate Student Services to have their AP or IB credit counted toward the humanities 6-unit requirement and/or social sciences 6-unit requirement. Petitions will be reviewed to determine if they conform to guidelines established for awarding humanities and social sciences credit. Guidelines are approved by the Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee.

**Engineering Topics Units**

Bachelor degree programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org) require
that the program require a minimum of one and one-half years of Engineering Topics.

One and one-half years is defined as 3/8 of the total number of units required for the particular degree, with a maximum of 48 units. The number of engineering topics units assigned to a course is the sum of the course’s engineering science units and engineering design units: Engineering Topics Units = Engineering Design Units + Engineering Science Units. A course carrying Engineering Topics Units will be marked in Course Listings (https://courses.wustl.edu/Semester/Listing.aspx) with the EN:TU attribute.

**Engineering Topics/Design Component**

Engineering design is the process of devising a system, component or process to meet desired needs. It is a decision-making process (often iterative), in which the basic science and mathematics and engineering sciences are applied to convert resources optimally to meet a stated objective. Among the fundamental elements of the design process are the establishment of objectives and criteria, synthesis, analysis, construction, testing and evaluation. The engineering design component of a curriculum must include most of the following features: development of student creativity, use of open-ended problems, development and use of modern design theory and methodology, formulation of design problem statements and specifications, consideration of alternative solutions, feasibility considerations, production processes, concurrent engineering design and detailed system descriptions. Further, it is essential to include a variety of realistic constraints, such as economic factors, safety, reliability, aesthetics, ethics and social impact.

**Engineering Topics/Science Component**

The engineering sciences have their roots in mathematics and basic sciences but carry knowledge further toward creative application. These studies provide a bridge between mathematics and basic sciences on the one hand and engineering practice on the other. Such subjects include mechanics, thermodynamics, electrical and electronic circuits, materials science, transport phenomena and computer science (other than computer programming skills), along with other subjects, depending upon the discipline. While it is recognized that some subject areas may be taught from the standpoint of either the basic sciences or engineering sciences, the ultimate determination of the engineering science content is based upon the extent to which there is extension of knowledge toward creative application. In order to promote breadth, the curriculum must include at least one engineering course outside the major disciplinary area.

**ABET Mathematics and Basic Science Requirement**

Bachelor degree programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org) require that the program require a minimum of one year of a combination of college-level mathematics and basic sciences (some with experimental experience) appropriate to the discipline. Basic sciences are defined as biology, chemistry and physics.

**Applicable Undergraduate Engineering Degree Requirements**

Undergraduate engineering students are required to satisfy the engineering degree requirements that are published in the online undergraduate Bulletin (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/prior/2018-19/undergrad) in effect at the time they first enroll at the university as degree-seeking undergraduate students.

Undergraduate engineering students must complete all undergraduate degree requirements and graduate within 10 consecutive years of enrolling as degree-seeking undergraduate students at the university.

A student who does not graduate within 10 consecutive years will be required to satisfy the degree requirements that are in the most recently published online undergraduate Bulletin and to retake courses identified by the chair of the department in which the student is seeking the degree.

- When a student wishes to return to complete course work and earn a degree after the 10-year time period has passed, the most recent online undergraduate Bulletin is defined as the catalog in effect when the student re-enrolls in the School of Engineering & Applied Science as an undergraduate student seeking a degree.
- When a student has left the university and wishes to complete course work at another university to transfer back and graduate from the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and more than 10 years have elapsed since the student was first enrolled as an undergraduate engineering degree-seeking student, the most recent online undergraduate Bulletin is defined as the catalog in effect when the student files an intent to graduate for an engineering undergraduate degree. The course work the student intends to complete and transfer back to the School of Engineering & Applied Science must be approved by the Engineering School before the student enrolls in the course work.

**Definition of Class Levels**

For classification purposes, a student’s undergraduate class level is defined according to the year in which they intend to graduate.