

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 12, 2007

Mark A. Emmert, President

Dean Matthew O'Donnell College of Engineering Box 352180

Dear Matthew:

Based on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards has recommended approval of the revised pre-major status from C-PRENGR and C-EXPENG to J-PREENGR and J-EXPENG and the new continuation policy for status as a PRENGR major. A copy of the changes is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the College of Engineering is authorized to specify these requirements beginning autumn quarter 2007.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

Mark A. Emmert

President

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Scott Winter (with enclosure)

Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)

Dr. Deborah H. Wiegand (with enclosure)

Todd Mildon, J.D. (with enclosure ENGR-20070104)

UoW 1503 (12/05)

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| SIGNATURES (required) | |
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| College Committee R I R TLA | Date 1/10/07 |
| Faculty Council on Academic Standards | Date 7 / 27 |
| UoW 1503 (12/05) REVERSE | 10/2/01 |
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Explanation and Rationale for Proposed Change to Pre-engineering Status

January 4, 2007

The College of Engineering is proposing two changes to the administration of the preengineering major status (PRENGR):

- 1. The College is proposing continuation (satisfactory progress) requirements that students must satisfy in order to retain pre-engineering status.
- 2. The College is proposing that the PRENGR status be moved from the College of Arts & Sciences to the College of Engineering. As a part of this proposal, the extended preengineering (EXPENG) status will also be moved to the College of Engineering.

Background

Pre-engineering status is one of a number of pre-major designations currently used by the College of Arts & Sciences. Students with pre-engineering status have registration priority for most engineering fundamentals courses that are prerequisite for upper division admission to engineering programs. Also, the College of Engineering maintains a listserv used to distribute information to students with pre-engineering status. Students can request to be changed to or from pre-engineering status at any time. Currently, however, if a student with pre-engineering status is performing at a level below the minimum required for application to an engineering program or if a student is not actively pursuing pre-engineering course work, there is no mechanism to move the student from pre-engineering to another pre-major status.

Proposed Continuation Requirements

The College of Engineering is proposing three basic satisfactory progress requirements for preengineering students. First, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 in required course work drawn from the following areas: mathematics, chemistry, physics, English composition and courses from the College of Engineering. Secondly, students must maintain a minimum quarterly GPA of 2.00, and finally, students must complete a minimum of 25 credits of the required course work per academic year. Students that fail to satisfy any of these requirements may be removed from pre-engineering status. A more detailed description of the continuation policy is attached.

Rationale

The Academic Pathways Study conducted by the Center for the Advancement of Engineering Education revealed that relative to other universities, UW pre-engineering students reported an "ambivalent commitment" to the possibility of majoring in engineering. It is believed that this low level of commitment adversely effects retention of pre-engineering students, especially women and students from underrepresented populations. In order to build a higher commitment level, the College of Engineering is working to build closer ties with freshman and sophomore pre-engineering students. Efforts to build these ties include establishment of an engineering

house in McCarty Hall, development of new curricular options for freshman, targeted advising outreach to pre-engineering students, and efforts to encourage earlier admission to engineering programs. In order to make the most of these efforts, it is important the College focuses on students who are truly on a pre-engineering pathway. Students who are not meeting minimum progress requirements can be contacted and advised in to more appropriate directions and changed to a pre-major status that more accurately reflects their intentions. The goal is to implement the continuation policy using a helpful non-punitive approach.

Moving the PRENGR and EXPENG statuses from the College of Arts & Sciences to the College of Engineering is being proposed primarily to build a stronger sense of identity in the preengineering students with the College of Engineering. The goal is that with the stronger sense of identity, the pre-engineering students will be more inclined to make use of services and programs in the College and be more committed to majoring in an engineering discipline.

Currently, there are approximately 1700 students with PRENGR or EXPENG status. It is estimated that after the continuation requirements are applied, this number will reduce to somewhere in the range of 1300 to 1400 Students. The College is hiring an additional adviser to assist with the anticipated increase in advising demand and to assist with the related administrative processes. The new staff person will also work with departments to facilitate direct freshman admission processes.

Proposed College of Engineering Catalog Copy

In addition to incorporating proposed changes to pre-engineering status, the following language is an overall revision of the description of admission processes for the College. The text pertaining to the changes in administration of pre-engineering status is underlined.

Admission

There are a variety of pathways students follow in gaining admission to programs in the College of Engineering. Details on the all processes and information on prerequisite course work are available on the individual department web sites or from the Engineering Advising and Diversity Center in 301 Loew Hall. The information below provides an overview of the admission processes.

Incoming freshman who indicate Bioengineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or Industrial Engineering as their intended area of study on their University application will be considered for direct admission to these programs. The number of students directly admitted to the programs varies from approximately 10 to 20 percent of the incoming class. Direct admission is for autumn quarter only.

All students not admitted directly to an engineering department are admitted to the College of Engineering with pre-engineering status. Students without pre-engineering status who wish to pursue an engineering degree may have their coding changed to pre-engineering upon request at the Engineering Advising and Diversity Center (301 Loew). To retain pre-engineering status, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.50 in prerequisite courses in mathematics, chemistry, physics, engineering fundamentals, English composition and technical writing; maintain a minimum quarterly GPA of 2.00; and complete a minimum of 25 credits of the prerequisite and other specified courses per academic year. A detailed description of preengineering continuation requirements is available from the Engineering Advising and Diversity Center, 301 Loew Hall.

Most engineering programs offer an Early Admission option at the end of the freshman year. In general, Early Admission application requirements include one year of calculus, English composition, and 10 to 20 credits of required chemistry or physics. Early Admission is for autumn quarter only.

All engineering programs offer an upper-division admission process. In general, upper-division admission occurs at the end of the sophomore year. Typical application requirements include one year of calculus, differential equations or linear algebra, one or two quarters of general chemistry, two to three quarters of physics, English composition, and several engineering fundamentals courses. The Engineering Advising and Diversity Center or the individual department or program has a list of specific entrance requirements. All departments offer upper-division admission for autumn quarter and some also offer a spring quarter option.

To apply for admission to an engineering program, enrolled students must submit the online College of Engineering application. The application deadline for autumn admission is July 1. For those programs that accept students for spring quarter, the application deadline is February 1.

Transfer Students

After completing the University transfer student application, transfer students who have completed all upperdivision application requirements for their desired program will also need to submit the online College of Engineering application by the specified deadline. Transfer students who have not completed upper-division application requirements may apply for admission to the University as pre-engineering students.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON College of Engineering

Continuation Policy for Students with Pre-engineering Status

1/4/07

This document specifies what constitutes satisfactory progress towards completion of engineering program prerequisites by pre-engineering students in the College of Engineering. While the University has regulations governing satisfactory progress and low scholarship, the College of Engineering has additional requirements in order to make best use of resources and to provide reasonable assurance for academic success. The following will apply to all students with pre-engineering status in the College of Engineering.

General Expectations of Satisfactory Progress:

- 1. The cumulative GPA of the required courses in mathematics, chemistry, physics, engineering fundamentals (including programming courses), English composition, and technical writing must be a minimum of 2.50.
- 2. Students must maintain a minimum quarterly UW GPA of 2.00.
- 3. Pre-engineering students are expected to complete a minimum of 25 credits per year of required courses from any combination of the following areas: mathematics, chemistry, physics, English composition, and all courses in the College of Engineering. Students attending on a part-time basis should meet with an adviser in the Engineering Advising and Diversity Center to work out alternate credit expectations.

Satisfying the above expectations for satisfactory progress and completion of admission requirements for an engineering program does not guarantee admission to that program.

Staff in the Engineering Advising and Diversity Center, 301 Loew Hall, will review the performance of pre-engineering students after each quarter to identify those students not meeting the above expectations.

First Ouarter Freshman

Freshman who fail to meet the pre-engineering GPA requirements after their first quarter in the University will be contacted and encouraged to meet with an adviser to discuss possible difficulties impacting the student's academic performance.

Pre-engineering Probation

If at the end of any quarter a student fails to meet the general expectations for satisfactory progress, the student will be placed on pre-engineering probation (except for first quarter freshman). The student will be expected to attain a 2.50 GPA for the following quarter or raise their prerequisite GPA to 2.50 and complete at least 8 credits of required course work. Students placed on probation may be required to meet with an adviser to discuss possible difficulties impacting the student's performance.

Removal from Pre-engineering Status

A student may be removed from pre-engineering status if, while on pre-engineering probation, the student fails to meet the minimum quarterly GPA of 2.50 or raise their prerequisite GPA to 2.50 and to complete at least 8 credits of required course work. The student will be notified of the change of major status, and transferred to the College of Arts & Sciences in a pre-major status. Students who fail to meet the required GPA or course work requirements may meet with an adviser to discuss options for retaining pre-engineering status.

105-credit Policy

In general, pre-engineering students are expected to complete prerequisites and make application to their desired engineering major by the end of the sophomore year (within 90 cumulative credits). University policy dictates that a registration hold will be placed on students who have not declared a major by the time they have earned 105 credits. Pre-engineering students who receive a 105-credit hold and who plan to continue work towards an engineering major must meet with an engineering departmental adviser or adviser in the Engineering Advising and Diversity Center to be considered for extended pre-engineering status. If the adviser feels the choice of major is unrealistic, the student may be required to either declare an alternative major or meet with an adviser in the Gateway Center, 171 Mary Gates Hall, to be considered for extended pre-major status in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Appeal Procedures

A student who has been placed on probation, been removed from pre-engineering status, or denied extended pre-engineering status and believes that some facts in the student's documentation have been overlooked or misinterpreted may request reconsideration of the decision by writing a letter to the Associate Dean for Academic affairs of the College of Engineering.