

**College of Engineering Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
for New Undergraduate International Students**
Summer 2021

1. What's going to happen at orientation?

International students will have a thorough introduction to the University of Michigan (U-M) community. Due to the impact of COVID-19, new undergraduate students will complete the Wolverine Online Orientation remotely -- including two virtual courses and a 2-day Synchronous Orientation Experience. One of the virtual courses is designed for all incoming first-year students and the other specifically for incoming Engineering students.

2. When do we register for courses?

After you were admitted to University of Michigan and paid your Enrollment Deposit (EDR), you should have received an email in mid-May to register for a 2-day Synchronous Orientation Experience. You will register for courses on Orientation Day 2 with the assistance of your advisor.

3. Is it possible to select courses offered by another school or college, for example, Ross?

Yes, CoE students may take classes offered by other schools and colleges at Michigan, as long as they have the appropriate preparation or prerequisites. Some colleges like the School of Music, Theatre, and the Arts (SMTD) offer classes intended for non-majors. In general, most schools/colleges give their own students priority and often reserve seats for them. Most courses taken outside the College of Engineering will satisfy Intellectual Breadth or General Elective requirements.

4. What kind of electives are required for CoE degrees?

There are two categories of electives required for every engineering degree. 1) [Intellectual Breadth](#): These are Humanities, Social Science, or other Liberal Arts Courses from LSA. Students are required to have 16 credits of Intellectual Breadth, including: a) 3 credits of Humanities, taken on a college campus (not credit from AP, IB, or a placement exam); b) 3 credits of HU/SS/LAC taken at the 300-level or higher. Students also have the option of applying up to 4 credits of [Professional and Creative Development Courses](#) (PCDC), which are approved courses from colleges such as Ross, Stamps School of Art and Design, School of Music, Theater and Dance, and Ford School of Public Policy. NOTE: Four Engineering majors (ChemE, CivE, EnvE, and ME) require an economics/finance course as part of Intellectual Breadth. 2) [General Electives](#): The number of General Elective credits required will vary from major to major. Check the department [Sample Schedules](#) for details. Any course not already required for your degree is eligible to be a General Elective. The only exceptions are 100-level ROTC courses.

5. Are there any research opportunities for international students?

Yes, international students may become involved in research. The process is the same for both international and domestic students. Students may approach specific professors or go through a program like the [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program](#) (UROP) to find a research

project. Depending on the research project, students may be paid for their work or they may earn academic credit.

6. How many credits can transfer students transfer in? What do I do if I have questions about my transfer credit?

There is no limit to the number of credits that CoE students can transfer in. However, all CoE students must earn a minimum of 50 credits on the U-M Ann Arbor campus and complete a minimum of 30 credits of advanced technical courses (300-level or higher). Although all of your credits may be eligible for transfer, they may not all fulfill a degree requirement. For example, some students transfer in more electives than are required for their CoE degree. Questions regarding transfer credit can be directed to the CoE Credit Evaluators: engincredit@umich.edu. Questions about how your transfer credits are fulfilling specific degree requirements should be directed to your advisor.

7. When do I declare my engineering major?

All first-year students enter the College of Engineering undeclared. Most students will be eligible to declare starting in their second term and are required to declare by the end of their third term. To be eligible to declare, students must:

- 1) Have completed at least one full term of courses on the U-M Ann Arbor campus.
- 2) Have an overall U-M GPA of 2.0 or better in courses taken at the U-M Ann Arbor campus and be in good standing.
- 3) Have completed or earned credit by exam or transfer for one or more courses in each of these categories:
 - Calculus (e.g. Math 115, 116, 156)
 - Calculus-based physics lectures (e.g. Physics 140, 160) or chemistry lectures (e.g. Chemistry 130)
 - Required engineering courses (Engr 100, 101, 151)

NOTE: A student must have a grade of C or better in every math course, science lecture and engineering course taken at U-M Ann Arbor to declare, unless waived by the Departmental Program Advisor. For repeated courses, the most recent grade counts. Students are advised to review these requirements with advisors in the departments they are considering for their major.

Transfer students are admitted directly to their chosen department and are, therefore, declared when they enter the College.

8. Can I change my major?

Yes, CoE students can change their major. You must meet the eligibility requirements above in order to declare a new major. Students are advised to begin this process as soon as possible and meet with the advisor in the department they want to declare.

9. Does the College of Engineering accept AP, IB, A-Level, or transfer credit?

Yes, CoE accepts all eligible credit earned by approved exams and from accredited colleges/universities. Please see the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions website](#) for more

details on exam credit and visit the College's [Transfer Credit website](#) for more details on transfer credit. NOTE: Students with A-Level math credit will meet with a math advisor on or near their Orientation Day 2 to determine the most appropriate math course for their first term.

10. Should I take foreign language placement exams?

CoE students do not have a language requirement, but you are encouraged to study a language, particularly if you are interested in advanced language courses, language-related minors such as the [International Minor for Engineers](#), the [Engineering Global Leadership](#) program, [study abroad](#), and other opportunities which require or recommend language proficiency.

Incoming Engineering students are encouraged to take language placement exams prior to Orientation (or as early as possible) to qualify for more advanced language courses, or to demonstrate proficiency for language-related opportunities.

Please consult the [Credit for Foreign Language policy](#) and the [CoE Language Placement Exam FAQs](#) for detailed information on this topic.