

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Undergraduate Program Information

Mission Statement

The mission of the Civil Engineering Department for the undergraduate program is to offer a high-quality accredited Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree that prepares our graduates for professional licensure leading to successful civil engineering careers in the industry and government, and for success in graduate education. Toward this end, the Civil Engineering Department will recruit and retain qualified and diverse faculty that are committed to student learning and development, and serve as role models to the undergraduate students.

Continued excellence in our undergraduate program is paramount to our mission by providing a strong technical foundation to our graduates for engineering design and problem solving; preparing quality graduates for licensure and professional careers in civil engineering; implementing modern and effective learning methods; maintaining close student-faculty learning interactions; and instilling life-long learning skills and goals for professional growth after graduation.

Program Educational Objectives

Within a few years after graduation, graduates of the Civil Engineering undergraduate program will:

1. Be successfully employed in civil engineering or related careers.
2. Be pursuing professional licensure, appropriate certifications, graduate degrees, and/or professional development activities by fostering life-long learning skills and strategies.
3. Be building on fundamental knowledge and applying technical skills across disciplines in civil engineering and related fields to make data-driven decisions using engineering judgement.
4. Be progressing as independent thinkers, ethical leaders, effective communicators, and collaborative professionals.

Program Criteria

The Civil Engineering curriculum is developed based on the program criteria established collaboratively by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET Inc. and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The curriculum specifically prepares civil engineering students at the baccalaureate level to graduate with the ability to:

1. Apply:
 - a. mathematics through differential equations, probability and statistics, calculus-based physics, chemistry, and either computer science, data science, or an additional area of basic science.
 - b. engineering mechanics, materials science, and numerical methods relevant to civil engineering.
 - c. principals of sustainability, risk, resilience, diversity, equity, and inclusion to civil engineering problems.
 - d. the engineering design process in at least two civil engineering contexts.
 - e. an engineering code of ethics to ethical dilemmas.
2. Solve complex engineering problems in at least four specialty areas appropriate to civil engineering.

3. Conduct experiments in at least two civil engineering contexts, as well as analyze and interpret the collected data and report the results.
4. Explain:
 - a. concepts and principles in project management and engineering economics.
 - b. professional attitudes and responsibilities of a civil engineer, including licensure and safety.

In accordance with the program criteria of ABET and ASCE, the Civil Engineering faculty responsible for teaching design-oriented courses are qualified in their respective professional areas by means of professional licensure, or a combination of education and design experience.

Furthermore, the faculty are given responsibility and sufficient authority to define, revise, implement, and achieve program objectives.

Graduate Program Information

Mission Statement

The mission of the Civil Engineering Department regarding graduate education is to provide research-based and practice-oriented post-baccalaureate programs leading to Master of Science (M. S.), Master of Engineering (M. E.), and PhD degrees for students in the areas of environmental, geotechnical, structural, transportation, and water resources engineering. Toward this end, the Civil Engineering Department will recruit and retain qualified and diverse faculty that are committed to student learning and development, scholastic and research excellence, and professional service.

Continued excellence in our graduate program is paramount to our mission by providing advanced academic and technical foundations to our graduates; providing interdisciplinary and collaborative research opportunities and teaching experiences; implementing learning methods that promote critical-thinking and problem-solving; seeking external funding to support innovative research and graduate assistantships; and fostering an intellectual and creative environment that values diversity (of people, research and interests) and research ethics.

The Civil Engineering Department offers excellent opportunities for advanced study and professional training in several fields leading to the M.E. in Civil Engineering, M.S. in Civil Engineering, M.S. in Environmental Engineering, and Ph.D. degrees. Students work closely with the faculty on contemporary issues including, but not limited to, applications of machine / deep learning, bio-geotechnologies, evapotranspiration monitoring of crops and riparian vegetation, ground stabilization, groundwater recharge, high performance materials, non-destructive testing and evaluation, remote sensing, renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, reservoir evaporation monitoring, riparian rehabilitation, structural health monitoring, sustainable construction, and water treatment and reuse.

The department has excellent facilities for teaching and research purposes including laboratories for mechanical, chemical and biological research. In addition, the department conducts research at various field sites located throughout New Mexico in collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies. Noteworthy features of the graduate programs are the energetic, highly motivated faculty and the low student-faculty ratio. The department regularly has several ongoing research projects of various size and scope employing graduate and undergraduate students. Teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified students and office space is normally provided to M.S. thesis and PhD students.

Students enrolling for graduate studies in civil engineering must have received a bachelor's degree in engineering or one of the allied fields.

A candidate for the M.S. in Civil Engineering or M.S. in Environmental Engineering degree may choose either a thesis or a non-thesis track. The M.E. in Civil Engineering degree requires only coursework. When a student enrolls for the Ph.D. program, a doctoral committee is formed to assist the student in planning a program appropriate to the student's background and goals and to administer the required examinations. All Ph.D. candidates in civil engineering must have a demonstrated proficiency in English and two research tools. Mutual understanding between the Ph.D. candidate and his or her doctoral committee on the final nature of these two research tools will be on an individual basis.

Master's Accelerated Program

The Master's Accelerated Program (MAP) option provides students the opportunity to complete a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a master's degree (M.E. in Civil Engineering, M.S. in Civil Engineering or M.S. in Environmental Engineering) with 144 to 150 credit hours; the non-accelerated path requires 156 credit hours (B.S. requires 126 credit hours plus the M.E. or M.S. which require 30 credit hours each). Students accepted into this program will follow the normal path of the Civil Engineering undergraduate curriculum, of which up to 12 credit hours comprised of senior-level (> 450) and/or graduate-level (> 500) courses will be counted towards the master's degree; the MAP courses must be approved by the department head and completed with a grade of B or better. When students receive their bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, there are 18 to 24 credit hours left for the master's degree which can be completed in 2 to 3 semesters for full-time students. Students must apply for admission during the final semester of their junior year and obtain prior approval by the department head to pursue the MAP option.