Adding or Dropping Courses

General Information on Drops (and Adds)

Campus versus College Drop Deadlines

The University of Illinois has a very liberal policy on course drops. Students may freely drop any unrestricted course up to mid-term as long as they remain full time. However, there are courses restricted by the College of Engineering and by its Departments which can only be freely dropped up to the tenth day of class.

Therefore, there are TWO late drop deadlines for regular semester courses:

- Mid-term of the semester is the Drop Deadline for UNRESTRICTED courses.
- The TENTH day of classes is the Drop Deadline for RESTRICTED courses.

Half-semester courses will have different deadlines to reflect their reduced length. The FIFTH day of the class for the course is the deadline for add or free drop. Check the campus deadlines.

Drop requests after the deadlines are NOT automatically granted

Not all requests will be approved, and requested changes to restricted courses will require you visit department and/or college advisors for a review. Carefully review the Drop Policy below for more information. Requests to drop classes due to poor academic performance alone will not be approved, because it is explicitly forbidden by the Student Code.

Drop Policy Details on Restricted Courses

10th day of classes is the Deadline for Schedule Changes with no approval required

- Within the first ten days of classes: students can change their schedule on their own. If students wish to make substantial changes, particularly in technical courses, they should consult their adviser (see more details here).
- After the tenth day of classes: All Restricted Courses by engineering Departments/College cannot be dropped without special review and approval by the department chief advisor/college dean. To drop a restricted course AFTER the tenth day (or to drop any unrestricted class after the mid-term drop deadline), students MUST have extenuating circumstances beyond their control that directly affected academics (documented sickness, personal emergency or crisis, etc.). Exception is possible only if a specific course is not required by the major of enrollment.
  - For College-Restricted courses: Drop requires approval from a Dean in the Undergraduate Programs Office (206 Engineering Hall).
  - For Department-Restricted courses: Drop requires approval from the Chief Advisor of the student’s home department and a Dean in the Undergraduate Programs Office (206 Engineering Hall).
- After mid-term of the semester: all changes of schedule require approval. To drop any class (restricted or not), students MUST have extenuating circumstances beyond their control that directly affected academics (documented sickness, personal emergency or crisis, etc.).

Not Sure How To Make a Change on your Class Schedule?

Check the How To page.

Questions? Whom to Contact

- KNOW YOUR COLLEGE - Your life as an undergraduate student is regulated by the undergraduate program office in 206 Engineering Hall where deans and advisors are the only individuals who can consider requests to add/drop classes.
- Avoid sending messages to random college of engineering personnel whom you may identify through websites or directories. Sending a request to the wrong person can only delay attention to your case.
- Please visit 206 Engineering Hall to discuss your situation with an Advisor/Dean: We are here to help, guide and assist. We will work with you and help you find solutions, whether you have extenuating circumstances or not.
If you have any questions about the Drop Policy or the Add-Drop portal, contact 206 Engineering Hall (engineering@illinois.edu) or 217/333-2280.