Degree Requirements

Road Map to Graduation
Tracking Your Degree Progress
Advanced Composition
Composition I
Free Electives
Foreign Language
Cultural Studies
Liberal Education Electives
Residency
Technical GPA

**Back to Main Undergraduate Advising Home Page

Road Map to Graduation

We hope for every student to avoid last minute panicking discoveries on their last semester of classes. Below is our way to help in minimizing stress for Graduating Seniors and in avoiding long waiting in lines in the first two weeks of their last semester. Regularly check your degree audit and keep track of your credit and progress each semester. Wherever you are in your studies, as you register for “next semester” classes, keep on checking!
**This is where you can find all the Programs of Study.** Check the Requirements of your degree, semester by semester.

**This is where you can generate and check your Degree Audit:** The table below guides you for things to look for in your Degree Audit Report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>- Generate and check your Degree Audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Make sure that you are making progress and getting credit for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>required Freshmen classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- First semester. Send all credit information that you may have received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>prior to joining Illinois (AP credit, Transfer Credit, or similar).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Check what classes you need to satisfy your Language Other Than English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(LOTE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Explore various ways you can enhance your experience (minors, study abroad,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>etc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>- Generate and check your Degree Audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Make sure that you are making progress and getting credit for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>required Freshmen and Sophomore classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Check what last class you need to satisfy your Language Other Than English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(LOTE) requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Second semester. Each degree has flexibility and allows you to start a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>specialization of some sort (some degrees formally-Track Options or similar-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other degrees informally-Electives classes to choose from).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>- Generate and check your Degree Audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Make sure that you are making progress and are not missing any credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(transfer classes, etc). Fix any missing credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Make sure you are making progress towards your specialization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Meet with your department for guidance:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- For degrees with formal specializations, make sure you officially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>declare your specialization at your departmental advising office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Make sure to discuss any possible modification, if applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Plan your senior year of classes. The ultimate goal is for you to have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nothing to worry about in your last semester!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tracking Your Degree Progress

Keep track of your progress towards graduation here. Please remember it is very important for you to speak with an advisor (your faculty advisor, your department's advising office, or a dean in 206 Engineering Hall) on a regular basis. The materials found here are meant to only be guidelines.

- Know the campus general education requirements
- Access the Liberal Education course list
- Understand probation and drop rules
- Keep track of the courses you've taken, the courses you still need to take, and your grades. Run an Unofficial Degree Audit from the Registrar's Office.
- Familiarize yourself with our withdrawal and readmission policy and procedure.

Run an Unofficial Degree Audit

Advanced Composition

The Advanced Composition requirement is fulfilled by a writing-intensive course beyond basic composition. It is required of all students, including transfer students. It is normally taken in the junior or senior years.

The course used to fulfill this requirement varies with curriculum. Consult your advisor for current information. The campus list is a series of courses that have been approved for Advanced Composition credit. It is available here.

Policy

The following policy statements may help in answering questions regarding this requirement.

- AP or transfer credit will not be accepted.
- If the requirement is satisfied in one curriculum and the student transfers to another, the requirement will remain satisfied. However, if the new curriculum uses a specific course for Advanced Composition that is required as part of the curriculum, the student must take that course.
- Advanced Composition courses can satisfy social sciences and humanities credit as well, if the course is on the approved SS&H list.
- You may petition another course to substitute for your Advanced Composition Requirement, through the College of LAS: https://www.las. illinois.edu/students/requirements/advancedcomp/

Composition I

Unless exempt for having credit obtained by SAT, ACT, or AP Scores, you must complete the Composition I requirement during your freshman year by enrolling in one of the following courses or course combinations:

- Rhetoric 105
- Communication 111 and 112
- English as a Second Language 111 and 112
- English as a Second Language 115

Students may register for Rhetoric 101-102, ESL 111-112, or ESL 115 only by placement into the sequence. Students should see their advisor if they have questions about the appropriate placement in a Comp I class.
Free Electives

Undergraduate students in the College of Engineering need 6 or more semester hours of free electives; the exact number required depends on the major. Almost any course offered by the University, and most transfer courses, can be used for free electives. However, the following restrictions apply:

- **Religious foundation courses**: maximum of 4 semester hours
- **Military courses**: maximum of six hours of military science courses may be used as free electives; transfer courses are subject to individual review
- **Kinesiology**: maximum of 3 hours of skill courses; no limit on professional kinesiology courses
- **Overages**: may be used for free electives if they go beyond the required course credits. For example, when ESL 114 and 115 are taken in lieu of RHET 105, the extra two hours may be used as free electives.
- **Courses not counting towards graduation hours**: Credit cannot be used toward the Engineering degree for any math course below MATH 220 (MATH 012, 014, 016, 017, STAT 100, etc.) or CHEM 101, PHYS 101, PHYS 102, ASTR 100, or basic military science.
- **100-Level ASTR courses**: Maximum of 4 hours from the following courses ASTR 113, 121, 122, 131, 132, 150 can be used for free elective credit. No other 100-level ASTR courses are allowed for graduation in any engineering curriculum.
- **Duplicate courses**: No credit will be used toward graduation requirements that duplicates credit earned in previous college work. If courses appear to be similar, the student is responsible for investigating duplication. If duplication is suspected, the student should consult the Undergraduate Programs Office in 206 Engineering Hall.
- **Foreign Language**: College credit may be used if a language placement examination has been taken and the college hours used do not duplicate more than the last two years of high school course work. Credit earned in the student's native language is not allowed.

Foreign Language Requirements

**High school language requirement**: Effective for all entering freshmen in Fall 2000 or later (Fall 2002 for transfer students) the following language requirement must be completed for graduation. This requirement may be satisfied by:

- Successfully completing in high school the third year of a language other than English;
- Successfully completing a third-semester college-level course in a language other than English; or
- Demonstrating proficiency at the third semester level in a language proficiency examination approved by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the appropriate department.

Students without three years of the same language in high school may complete the requirement in college. One year of high school language is normally equivalent to a semester of college instruction.

In order to enroll at Illinois in language courses beyond the first level, students must first take a placement test. If testing shows that repetition is needed, credit will not be granted for college courses more than two college semesters below the high school achievement level. For example, if a student has had three years of high school foreign language and is placed at the first level, as a result of the language placement test, credit will not be given for the first-level course but will be given for the second-level and higher. If the placement test is not taken, no credit will be given for repeated course work and only the fourth level of the language fulfilling high school requirements may be taken for credits.

A course taken in college to fulfill the third level of the high school non-primary language requirement must be taken for letter grade. For lower levels, it is allowed to take courses under the credit/no credit option.

International applicants, who have attended high school in another country, are normally expected to fulfill the language requirement by taking three years of instruction in English and a minimum of three years in their primary language. If not, it is possible to fulfill also the primary language requirement on campus by taking a proficiency test, if available.

Language Credits

**Humanities elective credit**: Starting in fall of 1994, freshmen must also satisfy the campus general education requirements which include six hours of humanities from the campus list. Foreign languages are excluded from the list. However, foreign language taken as part of the International Minor in Engineering will be used for campus humanity credit.

Proficiency Credit

Proficiency credit for language courses at the third level or higher can be obtained by proficiency examination (subject to the placement rule described in the previous section). A placement test is required before taking a language proficiency examination.
**Cultural Studies**

The campus General Education requirement in Cultural Studies is as follows:

Students who matriculated Spring 2018 or prior must complete two (2) courses: a course that is designated as Western/Comparative Culture(s) and one that is designated as Non-Western/U.S. Minority Culture(s). Both courses must be taken for a grade.

Students who began Fall 2018 or after must complete three (3) courses: a course that is designated as Western/Comparative Culture(s), one that is designated as Non-Western Culture(s), and one that is designated as U.S. Minority Culture. All three courses must be taken for a grade.

Courses that carry a cultural studies designation may, or may not, fulfill other general education requirements.

**Liberal Education Electives**

The College of Engineering requires **eighteen hours** of Liberal Education Electives*. Through these courses students deepen their understanding of human culture and society, build skills in inquiry and critical thinking, and lay a foundation for civic engagement and lifelong learning.

The college requirements include the campus General Education (GenEd) requirements in humanities and social/behavioral sciences. To satisfy the campus General Education requirements, students must complete:

- Six hours of campus GenEd courses in Humanities & Arts. These courses must be taken for a grade.
- Six hours of campus GenEd courses in Social & Behavioral Sciences. These courses must be taken for a grade.

*With careful course selection these requirements and the cultural studies requirements can be completed with a few as twelve hours of coursework.*

**Advising Tip:** To quickly find courses that satisfy more than one campus GenEd requirement, go to [http://courses.illinois.edu/cisapp/d](http://courses.illinois.edu/cisapp/d) and click on "Search the General Education Course Lists." You can find, for instance, all of the History courses that count toward both the Humanities & Arts requirement and the Western Cultural Studies requirement.

The remainder of the eighteen hours may be selected from any of the following:

- Courses from the College of Engineering Liberal Education course list (See Below). Note that this list includes courses in business subjects, the applied arts, and foreign languages, as well as additional courses in humanities and social sciences.
- Other courses that match the intent of the college liberal education requirements, and that are approved by the college. Students must petition to have these courses accepted a Liberal Education Electives.
- Courses from the Humanities & the Arts campus GenEd list
- Courses from the Social & Behavioral Sciences campus GenEd list
- Courses that have a Cultural Studies designation.

**Liberal Education Course List**

The following courses can be used to satisfy the College of Engineering Liberal Education requirement. Students who complete their campus General Education requirements for Humanities & the Arts, and Social & Behavioral Sciences with fewer than eighteen hours of course work may select the balance of their eighteen hours from this list. Courses taken from this list that fulfill no other degree requirements may be taken on a Credit/No-Credit basis. Please note that there are courses on the list (especially if included within the phrase "All Courses") that are approved for campus General Education requirements for Humanities & the Arts or Social & Behavioral Sciences. Actually, all courses with such approval can be used to fulfill the College of Engineering Liberal Education requirement in addition to those in the list.

*"All courses" means all courses numbered 100 through 489, excluding any courses with numbers ending in 90-99. Courses that have the words “Special Topics,” “Individual Study,” “Independent Study,” “Internship,” “Thesis,” or “Seminar” in their title are also excluded from the "all courses" designation. Students may petition for these courses to be allowed, on a case-by-case basis. Students may also petition to count courses numbered 500 and greater. Foreign language courses in non-language rubrics (e.g., AFST 231) require special approval; see Foreign Languages below.*

**Please note that some of the courses in this list may be closed for registration to College of Engineering students, or have limited openings for engineering students.** This is especially true within “all courses” designations. Students who take these courses, for instance while registered in another college, may count the courses toward their engineering degrees. Check the course listings in the current [Class Schedule](http://courses.illinois.edu/cisapp/d) for registration restrictions.

Students may also petition to use courses that are not on this list.
For more information about the courses listed below, refer to the University of Illinois Course Catalog.

**AAS**  Asian American Studies: 120, 224, 260, 291, 310, 317, 328, 346, 365, 435, 465, 485

**ACCY**  Accountancy: 200


**ADV**  Advertising: 150, 300, 411, 412, 450, 493

**AFRO**  African American Studies: 209, 222, 254, all 300- & 400-level non-language courses. For language courses, see Languages section below

**AFST**  African Studies: 209, 222, 254, all 300- & 400-level non-language courses. For language courses, see Languages section below

**AIS**  American Indian Studies: All courses

**ANSC**  Animal Sciences: 250


**ARAB**  Arabic: 150. See Foreign Languages below for language courses

**ARCH**  Architecture: 101, 210, 215, 402, 403, 407-419, 423, 424

**ART**  Art: All courses

**ARTD**  Art-Design: 208, 209, 211

**ARTH**  Art-History: All courses

**ARTS**  Art-Studio: All courses

**ASST**  Asian Studies: All courses

**BADM**  Business Administration: All courses, except 335-337, 350-355, 366, 374-379, 451 and above

**CHLH**  Community Health: 206, 243, 250

**CINE**  Cinema Studies: All courses

**CLCV**  Classical Civilization: All courses except 100, 102

**CMN**  Communication: All courses except 111, 112

**CPSC**  Crop Sciences: 113, 116, 131, 439

**CW**  Creative Writing: 106

**CWL**  Comparative and World Literature: All courses

**EALC**  East Asian Language and Culture: All courses

**ECON**  Economics: All courses except 202, 203, 465, 471

**ENG**  Engineering: 191, 198 (section EB from Fa17), 298 (LINC sections), 315, 451

**ENGL**  English: All courses except 404, 481, 482, 485

**ENVS**  Environmental Studies: All courses, except 101, 380, 406 and above

**EPS**  Educational Policy Studies: All courses

**EPSY**  Educational Psychology: All courses except 280, 457, 480

**ESE**  Earth, Society, and Environment: 200, 320

**FIN**  Finance: 221, 230, 232, 241

**GE**  See SE, Systems Engineering & Design

**GEOG**  Geography: All courses except 100, 103, 280, 371, 379, 380, 401-408, 421, 446, 459, 460, 468, 473-480, 489

**GLBL**  Global Studies: 220, 280, 298

**GWS**  Gender and Women's Studies: All courses
HIST  History: All courses, except 200 and 409
HUM  Humanities: 488, 489
JOUR  Journalism: All courses except 460
KIN  Kinesiology: 240
LA  Landscape Architecture: 215, 314, 315, 425, 426

Languages: Language courses other than English are usually acceptable, except for the student’s native language(s), and closely related languages. These courses must be in excess on the high school language requirement. Approval in 206 Engineering Hall is required to count any foreign language course toward the Liberal Education requirement. Courses may be based on results of the student’s Language Placement Examination with the following limitations:

1. Students may not repeat, for degree credit, courses more than two semesters below their high school achievement level (e.g., four years of high school language credit will not allow 101 or 102, but would allow for 103 or 104);
2. Students may earn proficiency credit for 103 or 104 or higher by examination, subject to limits of Rule 1.

Courses taken to meet the high school language requirement cannot count toward the Liberal Education requirement but could count for free electives if allowed for degree credits, subject to the limits of Rule 1.

For example, a student only took two years of a secondary language in high school, equivalent to levels 101 and 102 in college. After taking the placement test, the student is placed at the 102 level. If this student takes the 102 and 103 courses in college to fulfill the high school requirement, both courses may count for free elective credits. If the same student decides to take also the following course at the 104 level, or another course in a different language, for instance at the 101 level, credits can be applied toward the Liberal Education requirement in the College of Engineering.

LAST  Latin American and Caribbean Studies: All courses except 401
LAW  Law: 301
LER  Labor and Employment Relations: All courses
LING  Linguistics: All courses except 300, 303, 400-407, 486-489

Literature in Translation: Most courses will be acceptable, but all non-language courses taught under a language rubric (e.g., GER 201) require approval in 206 Engineering Hall via petition.

LLS  Latina/Latino Studies: All courses, including 392, except 479
MACS  Media and Cinema Studies: All courses
MS  Media Studies: All courses
MUS  Music: All courses except 448
NRES  Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences: 109, 325, 439
PHIL  Philosophy: All courses except 453, 454
PHYS  Physics: 280, 419, 420
PS  Political Science: All courses, including 390-398, except 230
PSYC  Psychology: All 200-level courses, except 210 and 235. PSYC 318, 352-356, 373, 423, 425, 447, 460, 465 are allowed
REES  Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies: All courses
RLST  Religious Studies: All courses, including 291
RSOC  Rural Sociology: All courses
RUSS  Russian: 320-335, 418-466
SE  Systems Engineering & Design: 361, 400 (required for SE degree; cannot be used to fulfill Liberal Elective requirement by SE majors), 461, 462
SHS  Speech and Hearing Science: 231
SOC  Sociology: All courses except 485, 488
TE  Technology Entrepreneurship: All courses
THEA  Theater: All courses except 419, 421, 425, 437, 453, 455, 459
Residency Requirements

The residency requirement for graduation with a first bachelor's degree are part of the Student Code, and are summarized here:

In addition to specific course and scholastic average requirements, each candidate for a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign must earn at least 60 semester hours of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign credit, of which at least 21 hours must be 300 or 400 level courses at a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus location.

Technical GPA Requirement

Technical grade point average (TGPA) requirements for graduation and advanced-level course registration apply to students enrolled in certain College of Engineering curricula. If students do not meet the TGPA requirements, they may be placed on probation. For a specific review of TGPA, students should Run an Unofficial Degree Audit. For additional information and advice, contact your department.

Please contact the College of Engineering Undergraduate Programs Office at engineering@illinois.edu if you have questions.