FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

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Updated October 2019
REGISTRATION TIMELINE - For more information, visit the Registrar’s website.

**October 7:** Spring and summer classes available on MyUI

**October 7-November 11:** Individual advising appointments. You **must** have an in-person advising appointment **before** you can register for classes. You cannot register without authorization from your advisor.

**October 21:** Registration times are visible on MyUI

**November 4-8:** Chemical Engineering Faculty Advising - look for an email explaining your advising process.

**November 11-22:** Early registration for Spring 2020

**March 9-13:** Early registration for Summer 2020

CHOOSING CLASSES

**How do I know which courses to take?**
Each major has a curriculum guide available on the College of Engineering’s website, which will be your best resource for planning. On each curriculum guide, you will find all courses required for the major, including course numbers and names, the sessions (Fall, Spring, or Summer) courses are typically offered, and any pre- or co-requisite courses required.

**How much say do I really have in my class choices?**
Engineering is a very sequential major—especially for first years—but you do have choices! You can choose your Gen Ed courses, and once you declare your Elective Focus Area/Track, you’ll have a lot of freedom to choose classes within your major. Depending on your specific situation, you may be able to pull up certain courses or delay other courses to future semester. Be sure to discuss options with your academic advisor or see a Peer Advisor for suggestions to ensure you stay on track.

**What is the recommended number of courses per semester?**
Engineering students can enroll in up to 19 semester hours without obtaining special permission, but you are the best gauge on how many semester hours will allow you to be successful. If you took 16 sh this semester and that felt like too many, consider taking fewer courses in the spring semester. If you took 13 sh this semester and felt that you had plenty of free time, add on an extra course. If you have specific questions about your course load, discuss this with your academic advisor or see a Peer Advisor for suggestions.

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How do I know if a class will fulfill a Gen Ed requirement?
Review the General Education section on your Degree Audit (towards the end) to see which specific requirements you have left to fulfill. Before enrolling, reference the lists of approved courses on the Gen Ed page of the Engineering website. This is especially true for the Be Creative requirement as only the specific courses on the list will count. The course description on MyUI will also indicate with Gen Ed category the course fulfills.

What are department seminars, and how do I know which one to take?
Department seminars vary from department to department and are 0 or 1 semester hour classes that cover a wide range of discipline-specific topics that don’t fit into other courses. Your major’s curriculum guide will indicate all of the required seminars.

I’m behind in the engineering course sequence, what can I do?
There are ways to catch up! The most common option is taking summer classes. Many of the first-year courses are available as summer classes at the University of Iowa; check MyUI for course availability and offerings. You could also take summer classes back home at a community college – see below for more information on how to transfer courses. For individual questions about your specific situation, discuss this with your academic advisor or see a Peer Advisor for suggestions.

How do I know which classes are offered for Honors credit?
In the Spring of 2020, RHET:1030 and CHEM:1120 will offer Honors sections. For General Education options, check the Honors Courses link under Course Listings on MyUI/Courses & Registration (on the right side of the screen). All the courses and sections offered for honors credit for the Spring 2020 semester will be listed, organized by course subject and number.

How will participating in a sport or band affect my schedule?
Being an athlete or in band is totally possible as an engineer. Find out your practice schedule before your registration date so you can carefully plan out your class times.

SUMMER CLASSES

I want to take summer classes at a different college this summer, how do I know if the classes will transfer?
You can check for transfer equivalencies in a few different places:

- Iowa and IL Transfer Guides on the College of Engineering website, under Future Students > Transfer Students. Select the college you are planning to attend.
- MyUI Transfer Search: on the right side of the Courses/Registration tab of MyUI, click on Transfer Courses. The “UI Search” option allows you to see all the approved transfer courses by department.
- Transferology: Create an account here for a broader national search.
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I don’t live in Iowa City; can I still take classes at the University of Iowa over the summer?
Yes! Many summer classes are offered as online courses. You can search for online options on MyUI/Courses and Registration by selecting the “Web/Online” option for the delivery mode. Each online class is taught in a slightly different format – to learn more about each course’s requirements and testing, contact the course instructor listed on MyUI.

How do I choose summer classes?
Choosing summer classes is very dependent on your major and the courses you have already completed. Use your major’s curriculum guide and your degree audit to review possible options. For individual questions about your specific situation, discuss this with your academic advisor or see a Peer Advisor for suggestions.

MAJORS AND MINORS

How do I declare a major or change my current major?
Complete the “Change of Major/Program of Study” form on the Academic Forms page. Your major will be changed and a new advisor assigned within one week.

Can/should I change my major before registering?
You can change your major at any time, before or after registering for classes. However, we recommend officially changing your major as noted above before you register for classes in order to ensure you do not fall behind in your chosen major. This will also allow you access to more specialized advising.

I’m still undeclared – how do I figure out which major I want, and by when do I need to declare it?
Being undecided right now is perfectly fine! There are many options to explore the engineering majors: review department websites, visit the Peer Advisors to discuss your options and interests, meet with faculty in different departments, review course descriptions for upper level courses, and keep track of the classes or projects you are enjoying. All of these activities will help you realize what you want to focus on with your degree. We recommend exploring your options and declaring your major by the end of your third semester.

How do I add a minor or certificate?
You can add most minors and certificates on your own on MyUI/Student Information/Programs of Study & Advisor. To learn more about the course requirements for each minor/certificate, request a “What If?” degree audit. You can also google the minor program at UIowa, as most departments list their minor/certificate information online. More information about minors and certificates in Engineering can be found here.

Pre-health: Contact the Academic Advising Center directly, C210 Pomerantz Center, (319) 353-5700. You will then be assigned an additional pre-health advisor to assist you in planning.

What kind of workload does a minor/certificate add?
A minor usually consists of 15-18 semester hours of courses. Some minors/certificates are easier to undertake with engineering because they overlap with required courses you are already required to take for your major or
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an Elective Focus area - chemistry, math, and computer science are common ones. However, you can also use your General Education electives for a minor/certificate in other fields, like art, dance, religion, a language, etc. More information about minors and certificates in engineering can be found [here](#).

I’m not sure I want to stay in engineering, what do I do?
If you’re having doubts about staying in engineering, make an appointment to discuss this with your academic advisor. They will be able to discuss any specific issues or concerns you have and help you explore your options and decide on the best course of action. If you’re planning to change colleges within the University, your current advisor can review the process of changing your major. Be aware that some colleges have different admissions prerequisites that you must complete before applying.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Do I have to meet with an advisor before registering for classes?
Yes, you are required to talk through the classes you have pre-selected (check your curriculum guides and degree audits, see above) with your advisor in order to get authorized to register for classes. To schedule a meeting with [Anat, Josh, or Adrienne](#) on MyUI/ Student Information/My Appointments/Schedule a New Appointment. For Chemical Engineers, your faculty advisor will email you with instructions on how to schedule an individual appointment.

Do I have to have courses picked out before meeting with my advisor?
We recommend that you upload all the classes you are considering taking to the Schedule Builder course cart before meeting with your advisor. You are welcome to look at timing and schedules as well, but do not get too attached to any one schedule as the availability of course sections changes by the minute during Early Registration.

How is my registration date determined?
Your registration date is generally determined by your number of overall earned credits, so for example, seniors going into their last semester will get to register first, and most first-year students will register toward the end of the registration period. Some students may have a priority registration date and time based on additional factors.

How do I qualify for “Early Registration”?
The name is a little confusing – actually, all students register during “early registration.” Early Registration begins on November 11 and students may enroll at any time after their assigned date and time.

There’s a hold on my account and I cannot register, what should I do?
Check MyUI to learn more about the registration hold and who to contact to resolve the issue. You must have all holds resolved to be able to register for classes. Academic Advisors cannot resolve these holds.

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