



Memo

To: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Office of Academic Affairs

From: Rosie Quinzon-Bonello, Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment

Date: September 4, 2025

Re: Informational Item: Correction to Civil Engineering BSc Engineering Curriculum Change
Transition plan

Attached is a memo from John Lenhart, Associate Chair in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering, which requests to update the transition plan for a program curriculum change, which was approved by CAA on January 23, 2025.

The College Committee on Academic Affairs was informed of this action during a September 2, 2025, meeting. There were no questions or concerns, and a college-level record of this action was created.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Quinzon-Bonello

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith
Council on Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs
University Square South
15 E. 15th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

The documents enclosed below contain a proposal from the Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering (CEGE) Department to update the transition plan included with the Civil Engineering curriculum approved by the Council on Academic Affairs on January 23, 2025. This is based on the volume of students requesting to switch to the new Civil curriculum, and the Department's desire to assist students in pursuing this option without undue delay to their graduation timeline. The proposed changes are based on hundreds of advising meetings with Civil students contemplating switching their curriculum and what we feel serves their educational needs while meeting all general education, program, and accreditation requirements. We apologize for making this request so soon after obtaining approval, but we feel the proposed changes represent the best interests of our students and Department. Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter, and we are happy to provide any additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John J. Lenhart".

John J. Lenhart, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering

Introduction

The Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering (CEGE) department is requesting additions to the Transition Plan submitted to CAA for the new Civil Engineering curriculum approved on January 23, 2025. CEGE is requesting the following curriculum changes be permitted for Civil Engineering students who started at Ohio State prior to the Autumn 2024 semester but have requested switching to the Autumn 25 Civil Curriculum. These changes were previously implemented for Civil students in Autumn 2024. However, we did not anticipate the volume of students interested in switching to the new curriculum, nor some of the necessary substitutions below for students switching curricula. The purpose of these changes would be to give more students the flexibility to switch to the new curriculum without delaying their time to degree.

The original transition policy stated: Current students will be given the option to either continue on their current curriculum or shift entirely to pursuing the proposed curriculum. As noted in the attached proposal, many courses within the current curriculum will satisfy requirements as a Core, Laboratory, Design, Technical Elective, or Breadth Elective course. Students will be encouraged to meet with the CEGE academic advisors to discuss this decision.

The CEGE Department would like to submit the following proposed changes to this plan:

- Students who started (have a requirement term) before Autumn 2024 will be given the option to continue on their current curriculum or shift to the new curriculum with the following options:
 - Substitute Math 2177 for Math 2173 and 2174, provided they will still meet the required 30 hours of ABET Math and Science credits.
 - Substitute CIVILEN 2050 for STAT 3450.0x.
 - Waive the requirement to complete ENGR 1300 as a technical writing requirement, provided they have already completed both their GE Writing and Information Literacy and Citizenship Theme requirements.
 - Substitute Earthsci 1121, 1151, or Biology 1113.0x as their Additional Science Elective, provided they completed one of these courses prior to switching to the new curriculum.
 - Substitute CIVILEN 3160, 3310, 3540 and 3541, 3700, ENVENG 3200, or MECHENG 2030 for CIVILEN 2001. CIVILEN 2001 – Introduction to Infrastructure – is meant to be a preparatory course for future Civil Engineering classes.
- Students who started (have a requirement term) Autumn 2024 and later will be given the option to either continue on their current curriculum or shift entirely to pursuing the proposed curriculum.

Rationale

In the time since the AU25 Civil Curriculum was approved in January 2025, the CEGE Advisors have conducted hundreds of appointments with students interested in learning about the

new Civil curriculum and investigating a potential switch. Several regular occurring substitutions were noted and discussed with the CEGE Undergraduate Studies Co-Chairs, and approval was granted to make these substitutions which the Department believed to be of an internal nature. In subsequent conversations with students, the CEGE Advisors informed students of these approved substitutions, and created an individual transition plan with each student intending to switch. Many students were interested in the flexibility to tailor their upper-level major courses toward a particular field of interest within Civil Engineering (Structural, Geotechnical, etc.), and the Department sought opportunities to allow these students to do so within their intended graduation timeline.

The substitutions did not allow students to fall short of their ABET, General Education, or University requirements, and they seemed to meet the spirit of the new curriculum. In July 2025, the CEGE Department was informed by the College of Engineering that, given the volume of students for whom these substitutions were being approved, these were not in fact, exceptions, but curricular changes which needed further approval by CAA and should have been included in the Civil Curriculum Transition Plan. Upon receiving this information, CEGE immediately created this request so as to become compliant with the directives with CAA regarding this curriculum transition. The CEGE Department is now requesting these additions to the Civil Curriculum Transition Plan to permit a greater volume of students to pursue the AU25 Civil Curriculum, without unduly delaying their graduation.

Below is a list of the proposed additions and the rationale for each:

- **Substitute Math 2177 for Math 2173 and 2174, provided they will still meet the required 30 hours of ABET Math and Science credits.** Math 2177 was required for AU22 and AU23 students and since those students are several semesters removed from taking a Math class, requiring the new Math requirements would mean returning to complete both Math 2173 and 2174.
- **Substitute CIVILEN 2050 for STAT 3450.0x.** CIVILEN 2050 was an optional statistics course for AU22 and AU23 students and there was significant overlap between CIVILEN 2050 and STAT 3450. This course is no longer being offered, so any student who completed CIVILEN 2050 has sufficiently met our STAT requirement.
- **Waive the requirement to complete ENGR 1300 as a technical writing requirement, provided they have already completed both their GE Writing and Information Literacy and Citizenship Theme requirements.** The purpose of the technical writing requirement is to prepare students for the technical writing they will perform in their Civil laboratory classes. AU22 and AU23 students have likely completed or are already enrolled in these classes, and we do not wish them to take another writing course at this point purely for that skill set.
- **Substitute Earthsci 1121, 1151, or Biology 1113.0x as their Additional Science Elective, provided they completed one of these courses prior to switching to the new curriculum.** Many AU22 and AU23 students had already completed one these courses for the Additional Science Elective on their prior curriculum and are counting these hours toward their 30 ABET Math and Science hours.

- **Substitute CIVILEN 3160, 3310, 3540 and 3541, 3700, ENVENG 3200, or MECHENG 2030 for CIVILEN 2001.** CIVILEN 2001 – Introduction to Infrastructure – is meant to be a preparatory course for future Civil Engineering classes. Students switching later in their curriculum will have missed the benefit of this course at this point in their degree path. We do not wish to see the students take a course that will not enhance their learning as a Civil Engineer, nor do we wish them to take seats from younger students who would receive a greater benefit from its content.

Effects for Civil Students

Permitting these additions will allow more AU23 or earlier Civil students to pursue a curriculum that allows for greater flexibility and tailoring of requirements to their specific career or graduate school interests without delaying their graduation or completing coursework with little to no educational benefit at this point in their academic career. Students who switch curriculum are able to take up to six (6) upper-level technical electives specifically related to their intended path. This not only allows for higher level of specialization and expertise in that area, but helps foster an interest in graduate education, as well. As a result, several Civil students have opted to pursue the BS/MS program purely due to the increased specialization and flexibility created by the new Civil curriculum.

At this point, four (4) students who were previously pursuing the GEL have indicated they would like to switch. Those students have been informed that they will be required to complete all requirements of the GEN if they choose to switch, and they have been instructed to complete GENED 2601 as their Launch Seminar, based on conversations with Dr. Meg Daly and Dr. Melissa Beers. Civil students will be given until January 16, 2026 to switch to the new Civil curriculum. To date, approximately 60 Civil students who started AU23 or earlier have requested switching to the new curriculum. We estimate that the total number who will request switching to be between 75 and 100 students.

Steps to be taken with Stellic

The CEGE Advisors will work with the College of Engineering Office to create a transition audit in Stellic containing the proposed changes listed above. This audit will be associated with the SU25 requirement term, and AU23 or earlier Civil students who request a switch will be assigned the SU25 requirement term.