THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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College of Engineering Admission to Major Update

The College of Engineering continues to work towards more effective administrative processes supporting student success in our majors. Three years ago, we implemented a new admission to major process to lower barriers for admission to major and improve the distribution of students across the majors in the college. This process, which was more holistic and not completely reliant upon GPA, involved students selecting and applying to three majors.

While this has helped, we still find students entering engineering with interests completely out of proportion to our teaching capacity. Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Aerospace Engineering (AE), Biomedical Engineering (BME) and Mechanical Engineering (ME), consistently have more students interested than these programs can accept. In the case of CSE, the unit also delivers the Computer and Information Science (CIS) degree and co-admits to both programs simultaneously, as the core major curriculum is identical. There are hundreds more students that desire CSE/CIS than the unit can teach. This has been an ongoing challenge for nearly a decade.

With better analytics and experience about student choices from our recent application process, we now can further refine how students access engineering majors. This memo is to inform you of upcoming changes to the process.

- Most of our majors will move to a "direct admit to major" format beginning in Au23. NFYS Columbus students who are not applying to the majors mentioned previously will be coded in SIS as "Majors" and not as "Pre-majors" upon accepting admission to the university.
- AE, CSE, BME, and ME will continue to admit to the pre-major.

This process will improve

- transparency to prospective students and families and
- enrollment management in the oversubscribed programs.

We will also begin to restrict current students from changing into the oversubscribed pre-majors. Placing more students in line for a sold-out show would just not be fair, given the significant fees currently imposed upon all engineering students.

Below is our process for phasing in these changes and an outline of our intentions moving forward.

Phase 1

Based on enrollment capacity and the strong desire to begin building a community of first year students while actively recruiting for more, all Columbus campus pre-majors enrolled in the following programs were moved to major status prior to the start of the Autumn 2022 semester:

- Aviation
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Materials Science Engineering
- Welding Engineering

In addition, Columbus campus new first year students enrolled in the following programs were moved to major status prior to the start of the Spring 2023 semester

- Mechanical Engineering (this was a one-time test to stretch the capacity in the department and is not expected to be a regular occurrence for the near future)
- Engineering Physics

Phase 2 - Undergraduate Admissions Process beginning with 2023 incoming class

In agreement with the Office of Admissions/SEM, new first-year students admitted to the Ohio State Columbus campus and who are interested in the following programs will be directly enrolled in their major:

- Aviation
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Engineering Physics
- Environmental Engineering
- Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Materials Science Engineering
- Welding Engineering

With the goal to improve transparency, implement an equitable admission process, and to engage in enrollment management practices that meet the demands and space availability in both popular and individual engineering programs, effective Autumn 2023 the college will limit options for all Columbus and Regional campus students desiring the following majors:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering (ENG) / Computer and Information Science (ASC)
- Mechanical Engineering

Prospective Ohio State students (first-year students and transfers) interested in the Big 4 pre-major programs must apply to one of these programs during the university admissions cycle. Students that enter other Ohio State academic programs will not be eligible for later admission/on-campus transfer to one of these programs.

Phase 2 – Changing to Pre-Majors After Matriculation

For the oversubscribed programs below, currently enrolled students may switch into the pre-major through Summer of 2023. Starting Autumn 2023, currently enrolled students on all campuses will no longer have the option to switch into them as we expect these programs to fill from NFYS admits.

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering (ENG) / Computer and Information Science (ASC)
- Mechanical Engineering

To remove the barriers for currently enrolled students to start in other engineering pre-major programs, beginning on May 15, 2023 the criteria to change into the College of Engineering as a pre-major will be updated as follows:

Current Criteria	Criteria Effective Autumn 2023
- have a 2.5 or better cumulative OSU GPA - have earned 12 hours or more of graded OSU credit* - have completed Calculus II (Math 1172 or 1152); or direct equivalent transfer or EM credit for Math 1152 or higher - have credit for one of Chemistry 1210, Chemistry 1250, or Physics 1250	- have a 2.0 or better cumulative OSU GPA - have earned 12 hours or more of graded OSU credit* - have earned credit or enrolled in Calculus I (Math 1151) during their proposed first semester in the engineering pre-major

Excluding terms of enrollment through post-secondary enrollment programs such as Academy

As we identify any necessary changes to these policies, we will maintain updates at the following location and point students there: https://advising.engineering.osu.edu/change-pre-major

Moving towards fully direct to admit to major

The College of Engineering encourages the University to re-evaluate and move away from a "major-blind" university admissions process. Students and parents in today's environment are asking for, and making decisions based on, certainty of access to a desired academic path at OSU.

A transparent process is needed that includes an applicant's choice of major and shapes the first-year class. Such a change in philosophy is one of the few available methods for addressing the unequal distribution of applicant interest and university capacity for majors. This obviously requires a university level discussion and action. In the meantime, COE will continue discussions with the Office of Admissions to best manage the expectations and outcomes of an overwhelming number of applicants desiring CSE and CIS.