

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, B.S. (ALTOONA)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Altoona

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, a minimum of 131 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Requirements for the Major	113-114

27 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GS courses; 9 credits of GWS courses. The remaining 18 General Education credits must be distinct from the Requirements for the Major.

Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
IE 312	Product Design and Manufacturing Processes	3
MATH 231	Calculus of Several Variables	2
MATSE 259	Properties and Processing of Engineering Materials	3
ME 390	Academic and Career Development for Mechanical Engineers	0.5
ME 490	Professional Development for Mechanical Engineers	0.5
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CHEM 110	Chemical Principles I	3
EDSGN 100	Cornerstone Engineering Design	3
EMCH 211	Statics	3
EMCH 212	Dynamics	3
EMCH 213	Strength of Materials	3
ENGL 202C	Effective Writing: Technical Writing	3
MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	4
MATH 141	Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	4
MATH 220	Matrices	2-3
MATH 251	Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations	4
ME 300	Engineering Thermodynamics I	3
ME 320	Fluid Flow	3
ME 330	Computational Tools	3

ME 340	Mechanical Engineering Design Methodology	3
ME 348	Circuit Analysis, Instrumentation, and Statistics	3
ME 360	Mechanical Design	3
ME 370	Vibration of Mechanical Systems	3
ME 410	Heat Transfer	3
ME 435	Mechanical Engineering Systems Lab	3
ME 450	Modeling of Dynamic Systems	3
ME 454	Mechatronics	3
PHYS 211	General Physics: Mechanics	4
PHYS 212	General Physics: Electricity and Magnetism	4

Additional Courses

Select 1 credit of First-Year Seminar	1
CMPSC 200 Programming for Engineers with MATLAB or CMPSC 201 Programming for Engineers with C++	3
ME 440W Mechanical Systems Design Project or ME 441W	3
Select 3 credits from the following:	3
BIOL 141 Introduction to Human Physiology	
BIOL 161 Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture	
CHEM 111 & PHYS 214 Experimental Chemistry I and General Physics: Wave Motion and Quantum Physics	
CHEM 112 Chemical Principles II	
Select 3 credits from the following:	3
ECON 14 Principles of Economics	
ECON 102 Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 104 Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>	
CAS 100A Effective Speech or CAS 100B Effective Speech	3
ENGL 15 Rhetoric and Composition or ENGL 30H Honors Rhetoric and Composition	3

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 3 credits in a 400-level ME Technical Elective course from department list excluding ME 410, ME 435, ME 440W, ME 441W, ME 442W, ME 443W, ME 450, ME 454, ME 490, ME 494, and ME 496	3
Select 6 credits in Engineering Technical Elective courses from department list	6
Select 3 credits in General Technical Elective courses from department list ^{1,2}	3

¹ Three rotations of Engr Co-op (ENGR 295, ENGR 395, and ENGR 495) can be used as 3 credits of GTE.

² Students who complete Basic ROTC may substitute 6 ROTC credits for 3 credits of GTE and 3 credits of GHW.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education

Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.