

# Computer Engineering

Computer engineers design computer hardware (from chips to servers), communication and network systems, and the smart digital devices that continue to revolutionize how we live and work. They also write the software to run these systems, constantly innovating to improve performance to meet our growing technological needs. They are at the forefront of cybersecurity, machine intelligence, networking, embedded systems, and robotics. They are proficient in both electrical engineering and computer science and are employed in every industry or field that requires computer hardware.

The Computer Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org> (<http://www.abet.org/>). The Program Educational Objectives (PEOs) of the CE undergraduate program strives to prepare graduates who: (1) will succeed as leaders in the computer engineering and technology industry and in research and development positions within industry and academia; (2) will work effectively in a range of roles to solve problems with global, economic, environmental and societal impacts; and (3) will pursue lifelong learning through advanced degrees and professional development opportunities throughout their chosen career. The student outcomes of this program are the ABET (1) - (7) Student Outcomes as defined by the "ABET Criteria for Accrediting Engineering Programs" available online at <http://www.abet.org/accreditation-criteria-policies-documents/>

The Computer Engineering concentration shares much of the core with the other engineering programs, but is structured to include more courses in computer science and a somewhat different emphasis in mathematics.

Please note that all students concentrating in Engineering need to file a concentration declaration using the University's ASK advising system. This declaration must be first reviewed by the relevant Concentration Advisor and then approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies after assuring compliance with all relevant program and accreditation requirements.

## Standard Program for the Sc.B. degree

### Mathematics Requirements

As mathematics is a cornerstone of all engineering programs, significant attention is given to early preparation in mathematics in engineering concentrations. It is recognized that students entering Brown will have different levels of mathematics preparation, and the following is offered as general guidance, though the actual choices of courses should be made in consultation with an exploratory advisor. MATH 0190 (or MATH 0100), followed by MATH 0200 (or MATH 0180) is the preferred sequence of courses to be taken in the freshman year. MATH 0100 and MATH 0180 offer content like that in MATH 0190 and MATH 0100, respectively, but the latter courses are highly recommended for future engineering students because they offer more examples of relevance to the field. Students who would prefer, or require, a more introductory level calculus course may start the sequence with MATH 0090. They may then take MATH 0200 (or MATH 0180) in the subsequent semester and in that case, would receive engineering concentration credit equivalent to that which they would have received having taken MATH 0190 and MATH 0200. However, students who find that the step up from MATH 0090 to MATH 0200 is too challenging, have a choice to take MATH 0190 (or MATH 0100) upon completion of MATH 0090, but in this case, MATH 0090 would not carry engineering concentration credit and the student would then need to take MATH 0200 (or MATH 0180) in the sophomore year.

Students who have taken Advanced Placement (AP) calculus courses in high school and/or have shown proficiency through AP examinations may start the calculus sequence at a higher level than that suggested above. If a student has AP credit and accepts to use it, it then allows the student to place out of MATH 0190 (or MATH 0100). These students should enroll in the appropriate higher-level math course, e.g., MATH 0200 (or MATH 0180) or possibly MATH 0350 (a more theoretical course that covers similar material). Although it is impossible to place out of MATH 0200 or MATH 0350 with AP credit, we recognize that some students enter with an even higher level

of preparation. Those students are advised to enroll in MATH 0520 (Linear Algebra), or MATH 0540 (Honors Linear Algebra), and take their second freshman mathematics course at a higher level, for example, MATH 1460 (Complex Analysis), MATH 1210 (Probability), or MATH 1220 (Mathematical Statistics). Alternatively, for some engineering concentrations, this second MATH credit requirement may be satisfied by taking a course from the Applied Mathematics Department, such as APMA 0350 (Applied Ordinary Differential Equations), APMA 0360 (Applied Partial Differential Equations), APMA 1650 (Statistical Inference) or APMA 1210 (Operations Research: Deterministic Models) if one of those courses listed is not taken for two APMA concentration credits. Details regarding the mathematics requirement for each concentration are listed in the corresponding programs.

## Advanced Placement

Courses that have been taken at the secondary school level are typically only used for placement into the appropriate course level at Brown. The examples of how this can be done in mathematics are given above, and there are other instances (such as in selection of the appropriate introductory chemistry course) where AP credit is considered. It should be noted, however, that advanced placement credits cannot be used to substitute for any Engineering concentration requirements; they are instead used to ensure that students are placed into the correct level of courses.

## Transfer Credits

Some students will also complete courses at other universities during the time they are Brown students (sometimes during summers while they are not in residence at Brown; sometimes during a junior semester abroad). Students who have successfully completed college courses elsewhere may apply to the University for transfer credit. (See the "Study Elsewhere" section of the University Bulletin for procedures.) In addition to the general rules governing such transfers, there are specific rules governing courses that will be offered as satisfying Engineering concentration requirements.

If the course proposed for transfer credit is offered by another department at Brown (i.e., that it carries a course number that does not start with ENGN), then the equivalent of the course must be established by that other department. This is done by submitting a formal request through the ASK system ([https://ask.brown.edu/transfer\\_credits/information/index](https://ask.brown.edu/transfer_credits/information/index)). Once this approval has been received from the other department, the student's internal transcript will show the equivalence and the course in question can be shown in the Engineering concentration declaration as having been completed elsewhere. If the equivalence to a Brown course is not approved, then there may still be "unassigned credit" given for the course. In this case, the situation relative to how it does or does not count for concentration credit needs to be discussed with the Concentration Advisor. In rare cases, students may petition the Engineering Concentration Committee to use courses that do not have an equivalent offered at Brown in order to meet a concentration requirement. Substitutions of this nature can only be approved if the student's overall program meets published educational outcomes for the concentration and has sufficient basic science, mathematics, and engineering topics courses to meet relevant accreditation requirements. Students should consult their Concentration Advisor for assistance with drafting a petition. The decision whether to award concentration credit is made by majority vote of the Engineering Concentration Committee.

If the student wishes to transfer a course taken outside of Brown that would normally carry an Engineering course number, the sequence is a bit different. First, the student needs to fill out an Engineering Transfer Credit Approval Request (see <https://engineering.brown.edu/undergraduate/concentrations/concentration-options/study-abroad>) (<https://engineering.brown.edu/undergraduate/concentrations/concentration-options/study-abroad/>). This routes the request to the relevant Brown Engineering faculty member for approval. Once this has been obtained, then transfer approval is requested through the ASK system, as described above. This process ensures that the transcript will capture the equivalence of the externally completed course.

## Substitutions for Required Courses

Students may petition the Engineering Concentration Committee to substitute a course in place of a defined concentration requirement. Such substitutions can only be approved if the student's modified program continues to meet the published educational outcomes for the concentration and has sufficient basic science, mathematics, and engineering topics courses needed to meet accreditation requirements. If the substitution involves taking an equal or higher level course in substantially the same area, whether at Brown or elsewhere, it can be approved by the Concentration Advisor without requiring a formal petition to the Concentration Committee. (For courses taken elsewhere, the credit must be officially transferred as described above.) Students wishing to make substitutions of a broader nature should consult their Concentration Advisor for assistance in drafting their petition to the Engineering Concentration Committee. Such petitions may be approved by a majority vote of the Committee.

### 1. Core Courses:

ENGN 0030	Introduction to Engineering	1
or ENGN 0032	Introduction to Engineering: Design	
ENGN 0040	Engineering Statics and Dynamics	1
ENGN 0510	Electricity and Magnetism	1
ENGN 0520	Electrical Circuits and Signals	1
APMA 1650	Introduction to Probability and Statistics with Calculus	1
or APMA 1655	Introduction to Probability and Statistics with Theory	
or CSCI 1450	Advanced Introduction to Probability for Computing and Data Science	
MATH 0190	Single Variable Calculus, Part II (Physics/Engineering)	1
or MATH 0100	Single Variable Calculus, Part II	
MATH 0200	Multivariable Calculus (Physics/Engineering)	1
or MATH 0180	Multivariable Calculus	
or MATH 0350	Multivariable Calculus With Theory	
CHEM 0330	Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure <sup>1</sup>	1
or ENGN 0410	Materials Science	
or NEUR 0010	The Brain: An Introduction to Neuroscience	
APMA 0350	Applied Ordinary Differential Equations	1
or APMA 1170	Introduction to Computational Linear Algebra	
or APMA 1710	Information Theory	
or CSCI 0220	Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability	
or CSCI 1570	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	
or MATH 1260	Complex Analysis	
Select one of the following series (other CSCI courses subject to approval):		2
CSCI 0150	Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science	
and		
CSCI 0200	Program Design with Data Structures and Algorithms	
OR		
CSCI 0170	Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction	
and		
CSCI 0200	Program Design with Data Structures and Algorithms	
OR		
CSCI 0190	Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science (plus one additional CSCI course subject to Concentration Advisor approval)	
OR		
CSCI 0111	Computing Foundations: Data <sup>2</sup>	

and

CSCI 0112	Computing Foundations: Program Organization	
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and

CSCI 0200	Program Design with Data Structures and Algorithms	
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### 2. Upper-Level Computer Engineering Curriculum:

ENGN 1570	Linear System Analysis	1
ENGN 1630	Digital Electronics Systems Design	1
ENGN 1640	Design of Computing Systems	1
MATH 0520	Linear Algebra	1
or MATH 0540	Linear Algebra With Theory	
One advanced Computer Engineering foundations course:		1
ENGN 1580	Communication Systems	
ENGN 1600	Design and Implementation of Digital Integrated Circuits	
ENGN 1610	Image Understanding	
ENGN 1620	Analysis and Design of Electronic Circuits	
ENGN 2530	Digital Signal Processing	
One advanced Computer Science course with significant systems programming: <sup>3</sup>		1
CSCI 0330	Introduction to Computer Systems	
or CSCI 0300	Fundamentals of Computer Systems	
ENGN 0500	Digital Computing Systems	
CSCI 0320	Introduction to Software Engineering	
CSCI 1230	Introduction to Computer Graphics	
CSCI 1380	Distributed Computer Systems	
CSCI 1670	Operating Systems	
CSCI 1680	Computer Networks	
Select three upper-level Computer Engineering electives. At least one must be an ENGN course, and at least one must be a CSCI course. Note that some upper-level courses are not offered every year. Other 1000- or 2000-level ENGN and CSCI courses outside of the list below may also be approved by the Concentration Advisor if they have appropriate connections to Computer Engineering. <sup>4</sup>		3
ENGN 1220	Neuroengineering	
ENGN 1450	Properties and Processing of Electronic Materials	
ENGN 1560	Applications in Microwave Communications	
ENGN 1580	Communication Systems	
ENGN 1590	Semiconductor Devices	
ENGN 1600	Design and Implementation of Digital Integrated Circuits	
ENGN 1610	Image Understanding	
ENGN 1620	Analysis and Design of Electronic Circuits	
ENGN 1650	Embedded Microprocessor Design <sup>5</sup>	
ENGN 1690	Photonics Devices and Sensors	
ENGN 1930B	Biomedical Optics	
ENGN 1931A	Photovoltaics Engineering	
ENGN 1931F	Introduction to Power Engineering	
ENGN 1931M	Industrial Machine Vision	
ENGN 1931Y	Control Systems Engineering	
ENGN 2500	Medical Image Analysis	
ENGN 2501	Digital Geometry Processing	
ENGN 2502	3D Photography	
ENGN 2520	Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning	
ENGN 2530	Digital Signal Processing	
ENGN 2560	Computer Vision	

ENGN 2620	Solid State Quantum and Optoelectronics
ENGN 2911X	Reconfigurable Computing
ENGN 2912B	Scientific Programming in C++
ENGN 2912K	Mixed-Signal Electronic Design
ENGN 2912U	Coordinated Mobile Robotics
ENGN 2920F	Sensors and Actuators for Real Systems
CSCI 0320	Introduction to Software Engineering
CSCI 1230	Introduction to Computer Graphics
CSCI 1270	Database Management Systems
CSCI 1300	Interaction Design
CSCI 1380	Distributed Computer Systems
CSCI 1411	Foundations of AI
CSCI 1430	Computer Vision
CSCI 1470	Deep Learning
CSCI 1570	Design and Analysis of Algorithms
CSCI 1600	Real-Time and Embedded Software
CSCI 1660	Introduction to Computer Systems Security
CSCI 1670	Operating Systems
CSCI 1680	Computer Networks
CSCI 1730	Design and Implementation of Programming Languages
CSCI 1951R	Introduction to Robotics
<b>3. Capstone Design</b> <sup>6</sup>	
ENGN 1650	Embedded Microprocessor Design <sup>5</sup>
or ENGN 1000	Projects in Engineering Design I
or ENGN 1001	Projects in Engineering Design II

4. General Education Requirement: At least four approved courses must be taken in humanities and social sciences

**Total Credits** 21

- <sup>1</sup> Or a Biology course beyond BIOL 0200, subject to Concentration Advisor approval
- <sup>2</sup> Subject to approval by the Concentration Advisor, the third upper-level elective may optionally be chosen from another department, such as CLPS, NEUR, PHYS or CHEM, if it has a significant quantitative physical science emphasis.
- <sup>3</sup> CSCI 1952Y cannot be used as a CS elective due to its overlap with ENGN 1640, which is a required course.
- <sup>4</sup> Students wishing to go directly from CSCI 0111 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=CSCI%200111>) to CSCI 0200 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=CSCI%200200>) (without CSCI 0112 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=CSCI%200112>)) will need to successfully complete additional exercises to receive an instructor override code for CSCI 0200 (<https://bulletin.brown.edu/search/?P=CSCI%200200>).
- <sup>5</sup> ENGN 1650 cannot be counted as an elective and capstone simultaneously. It can only be either elective or capstone.
- <sup>6</sup> Subject to approval by the Concentration Advisor, an independent study course (ENGN 1972/ENGN 1973) may be used to fulfill the Engineering Capstone Design requirement. To qualify for such approval, the independent study project must: (1) contain a significant and definable design component; (2) be based on the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier course work, (3) incorporate appropriate engineering standards; and (4) address multiple realistic constraints. To request approval, please complete the online form available at <https://engineering.brown.edu/undergraduate/concentrations/concentration-options/independent-study> (<https://engineering.brown.edu/undergraduate/concentrations/concentration-options/independent-study/>)

### Special Sc.B. Concentrations (non-accredited):

In addition to the standard programs described above, students may also petition the Engineering Concentration Committee to pursue a

special engineering Sc.B. degree of their own design. Such special Sc.B. programs are not ABET-accredited. Students with a special concentration will receive an Sc.B. degree in engineering, but a specific area of specialization will not be noted on their transcript. A special Sc.B. concentration is intended to prepare graduates for advanced study in engineering or for professional practice, but in an area that is not covered by one of the existing Sc.B. programs. Accordingly, special concentration programs are expected to consist of a coherent set of courses with breadth, depth and rigor comparable to an accredited degree. A total of 21 engineering, mathematics, and basic science courses are required. The program must include at least 3 courses in mathematics, at least 2 courses in physical or life sciences; and at least 12 courses in engineering. At least five of the engineering courses must be upper level courses, and one must be a capstone design course or independent study, which must be advised or co-advised by a member of the regular engineering faculty. Note that not all Engineering courses may be used to meet Sc.B. requirements: for example, the courses not allowed to count toward the A.B. will not qualify. Petitions should be prepared in consultation with an engineering faculty advisor, who will submit the petition to the Engineering Concentration Committee. Petitions must include: (i) a statement of the objectives of the degree program, and an explanation of how the courses in the program meet these objectives; (ii) course descriptions for any courses in the program that are not part of standard Sc.B. Engineering concentrations; (iii) a detailed description of any independent study courses used for concentration credit, signed by the faculty advisor for this course; and (iv) an up-to-date internal transcript.

## Professional Track

The requirements for all undergraduate professional tracks within concentrations are standardized and additional information can be found here:

<https://bulletin.brown.edu/undergradprotrack/>

### Degrees with Honors in Engineering

Honors are granted by the University to students whose work in a field of concentration has demonstrated superior quality and culminated in an 'Honors Thesis of Distinction.' Honors recipients in the School of Engineering must meet the following criteria: (1) Demonstrate a strong academic record (60% A's or "S with Distinction" in their concentration through the seventh semester); (2) Propose and execute an independent research project under the guidance of a faculty member; (3) Complete a written thesis to the satisfaction of the Honors Program Committee; (4) Give a scientific/technical presentation at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the spring semester; and (5) Fulfill all deadlines for applying for or completing honors to the satisfaction of his/her research advisor and the Honors Program Committee.