Elective Concentrations

The program in Mechanical Engineering is designed to appeal to students with a wide variety of interests and professional goals. By an appropriate choice of elective courses, students can develop a highly personalized curriculum.

Some suggested areas of concentration are biomedical engineering, design, energy and sustainability, intelligent mechanical systems, and computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing.

The biomedical engineering concentration is open to students interested in the biological and medical application of mechanical engineering procedures. Students may also want to consider the “pre-medical” concentration (below).

The design concentration focuses on product design supported by innovations, systematic design processes, and computational design methods while incorporating manufacturing and other life cycle considerations.

The energy and sustainability concentration emphasizes the mechanical aspects of energy conversion and management.

The manufacturing concentration is directed toward planning and selecting manufacturing methods, design for manufacture, computer-aided flexible automation and robotics, digital manufacturing, and increasing the efficiency and productivity of current and emerging manufacturing technologies.

The MEMS/Nanotechnology concentration focuses on the design and performance of nano and microscale devices, and materials behavior at these length-scales.

The robotics concentration focuses on robotics and the design of microprocessor-controlled electromechanical systems.

The solid mechanics concentration focuses on the study of stress and strain in solid bodies along with the application of computational methods for stress analysis.

The thermo-fluids concentration is appropriate for students with an interest in one of the wide array of technologies where fluid flow and heat transport are the dominant physical mechanisms.

The pre-medical concentration is open to students interested in obtaining an ME degree while also satisfying the requirements for admission to medical school.

It is possible that technical electives chosen according to the suggested concentrations below may not include two 300-level ME courses. This is acceptable provided that the technical electives satisfy the requirements of one of the areas of concentration.
Biomedical Engineering Concentration – 4 courses

Choose one of the options below.

Required for all options:
One course in mathematics or basic sciences.

Option 1: Biological Mechanics and Rehabilitation
Take both of these courses:
BME 371  Mechanics of Biological Tissues
BME 366  Biomechanics of Movement
Choose one of these courses:
ME 314*  Theory of Machines – Dynamics*
EECS 360*  Introduction to Feedback Systems*
ME 333  Mechatronics
ME 433  Advanced Mechatronics
ME 449  Robotic Manipulation
ME 454  Opt. Control of Nonlinear Systems
ME 495  Embedded Systems in Robotics

Option 2: Neural Engineering and Artificial Intelligence
Required basic math and science:
BIO 302  Fundamentals of Neurobiology I
Choose one of these courses:
ME 314*  Theory of Machines – Dynamics*
EECS 360*  Introduction to Feedback Systems*
ME 333  Mechatronics
Choose one of these courses:
EECS 325  Artificial Intelligence Programming
EECS 332  Digital Image Analysis
EECS 348  Intro to Artificial Intelligence
EECS 349  Machine Learning
EECS 495  Machine Learning & AI for Robots
Choose one of these courses:
BME 365  Ctrl of Human Limbs…
BME 461  Computational Neuromechanics…
BME 462  Sensory Acquisition
BME 463  Systems Neuropathophysiology
BME 465  Mdng & Sim Human Movement
BME 467  Biomedical Robotics
BME 469  Neural Control & Mech of Mvment

Option 3: Biomaterials and regenerative medicine
Choose one of these three:
BME 343  Biomaterials and Medical Devices
MSCI 370  Biomaterials
BME 344  Biol. Performance of Materials
Choose one of these two:
BME 346  Tissue Engineering
BME 349  Bioregenerative Engineering
Choose one from the following list:
ChBE 361  Introduction to Polymers
ChBE 379  Comp. Bio: Principles & Applications
MSCI 318  Materials Selection
MSCI 376  Nanomaterials
### Option 4: Imaging and biophotonics

**Required:**
- BME 325  Introduction to Medical Imaging

**Choose one of these two:**
- BME 327  Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- BME 333  Modern Opt. Micro. and Imaging

**Choose one from the following list:**
- EECS 302  Prob. Systems and Random Signals
- EECS 328  Numerical Methods for Engineers
- EECS 332  Digital Image Analysis
- EECS 360  Introduction to Feedback Systems
- EECS 379  Lasers and Coherent Optics
- EECS 382  Photonic Information Processing
- EECS 395  Bioinformatics

### Option 5: Biological fluids and transport

**Required:**
- BME 350  Transport Fundamentals

**Choose two from the following list:**
- ME 322*  Thermodynamics II*
- ME 420  Micro & Nano Fluid Dynamics
- ME 423  Intro to Comp. Fluid Dynamics
- ME 424  Advanced Comp. Fluid Dynamics
- ME 425  Introduction to Fluid Dynamics
- ME 427  Viscous Fluid Mechanics
- BME 450  Mass and Heat Transfer
- BME 452  Transport Connective Tissues

* If not taken to satisfy the Advanced Study requirement
Design Concentration - 4 courses

**Required:** One course in mathematics or basic sciences

**Take any three from the following list:**
- ME 333 Introduction to Mechatronics
- ME 340-2 Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- ME 341 Computational Methods for Engineering Design
- ME 346 Introduction to Tribology
- ME 359 Reliability Engineering
- ME 365 Finite Elements for Stress Analysis (if not included as an ME Advanced Study course)
- ME 366 Finite Elements for Design and Optimization
- MSc 318 Materials Selection
- IEMS 307 Quality Improvement by Experimental Design
- DSGN 3xx Any 300-level DSGN course *(Note: Only one DSGN 3xx may count as a Tech Elective)*

Energy and Sustainability Concentration - 4 courses

ISEN stands for the Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern

Note that ISEN 200-level courses cannot count as concentration courses, but may be taken as unrestricted electives.

**Required:** One course in mathematics or basic sciences

**Choose two from the following list:**
- ME 322* OR ME 373*: Thermodynamics II* OR Engineering Fluid Mechanics*
  (* whichever is not taken as an ME Advanced Study course)
- ME 395*: Quantitative Methods in Life Cycle Analysis
- ME 395*/ISEN 395*: Thermal Energy Systems Design
- ME 395*: Energy Systems
- ME 495*/ISEN 495*: Industrial Energy Management and Utilization
- ME 495*: Sustainable Manufacturing Systems

**Choose one from the following list:**
- ISEN 410: Topics in Contemporary Energy and Climate Change
- ISEN 430: Nuvention Energy
- CHEM_ENG 365: Sustainability, Technology and Society
- CIV_ENV 368: Sustainability: Issues and Actions Near and Far
- MAT_SCI 381: Materials for Energy-Efficient Technology

If the course in basic math and science is 300-level or above, then one of the three other courses may be 200 level. An interesting choice here may be CIV_ENV 203: Energy and the Environment: The Automobile

† Note: The course numbers 395 and 495 are used as “generic” numbers for any course that does not yet have a permanent, unique number within the department. The fact that these particular 395 and 495 courses – with these particular titles – can count towards the “energy and sustainability concentration” should not be taken to indicate that all ME 395 courses can count towards the concentration.
# Manufacturing Concentration - 4 courses

**Required:** One course in mathematics or basic sciences

**Take one course from each of the following three groups:**

**Group 1:**
- ME 340-2 Computer-Integrated Manufacturing: CAD/CAM
- ME 340-3 Computer-Integrated Manufacturing: Automation

**Group 2:**
- ME 346 Introduction to Tribology
- EECS 390 Introduction to Robotics
- MSc 317 Materials in Manufacturing
- MSc 331 Soft materials
- MSc 340 Ceramic Processing

**Group 3:**
- ME 341 Computational Methods for Engineering Design
- ME 366 Finite Elements in Design Optimization
- EECS 360 Introduction to Feedback Systems
- ME 359 Reliability Engineering
- IEMS 305 Statistical Methods for Quality Improvement
- IEMS 307 Quality Improvement by Experimental Design

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# MEMS/Nanotechnology Concentration – 4 courses

**Required:** One course in mathematics or basic sciences

**Take three classes from the list below:**

ME 381 Introduction to MEMS
ME 382 Experiments in Micro/Nano Science and Engineering
ME 451 Micromachining
EECS 388 Nanotechnology
ME-CEE Finite Element Method
ME 417 Multi-scale Modeling and Simulation in Solid Mechanics
ME 418 Multi-scale Modeling and Simulation in Fluid Mechanics
MAT_SCI 376 Nanomaterials
MAT_SCI 455 Solid State Physics of Nanomaterials
ME 420 Micro and Nano-Scale Fluid Dynamics
ME 495 Computational Nanodynamics
Robotics Concentration – 4 courses

**Required:** One course in mathematics or basic sciences
Some courses to consider that meet this requirement include:

- BIOL_SCI 302 Fundamentals of Neurobiology I
- BIOL_SCI 306 Fundamentals of Neurobiology II
- BIOL_SCI 322 Systems and Computational Neuroscience

Any more advanced Neuroscience course (cannot be in the BME department, must be basic math/science)

- PSYCH 324 Perception
- PSYCH 335 Decision Making
- PSYCH 351 Advanced Statistics and Experimental Design
- CSD 306 Psychoacoustics
- CSD 310 Biological Foundations of Speech and Music
- PHYSICS 352 Introduction to Computational Physics
- PHYSICS 357 Optics Laboratory

**Required:**

- ME 333 Introduction to Mechatronics

**Take any two of these courses:**

*Courses that emphasize programming:*
- EECS 205 Fundamentals of Computer System Software
- EECS 211 A Fundamentals of Computer Programming 1
- EECS 211 B Fundamentals of Computer Programming 2
- EECS 230 Programming for Computer Engineers
- EECS 336 Design and Analysis of Algorithms
- EECS 457 Advanced Algorithms

*Courses that emphasize artificial intelligence:*
- EECS 325 Artificial Intelligence Programming
- EECS 332 Digital Image Analysis
- EECS 348 Intro to Artificial Intelligence
- EECS 349 Machine Learning
- EECS 495 Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence for Robotics

*Courses that emphasize neuroscience:*

**NOTE: Only 1 from this group can count as a Technical Elective towards the ME degree**

- BME 365 Control of Human Limbs and Their Artificial Replacements
- BME 461 Computational Neuromechanics and Neuroethology
- BME 462 Sensory Acquisition
- BME 463 Systems Neuropathophysiology
- BME 465 Modeling and Simulation of Human Movement
- BME 467 Biomedical Robotics
- BME 469 Neural Control and Mechanics of Movement

*Courses that emphasize dynamics, mechatronics, robotics, and control:*

- ME 314 Theory of Machines - Dynamics
- ME 433 Advanced Mechatronics
- ME 449 Robotic Manipulation
- ME 454 Optimal Control of Nonlinear Systems
- ME 495 Embedded Systems in Robotics
- EECS 360 Introduction to Feedback Systems
- EECS 374 Intro to Digital Control
- EECS 390 Intro to Robotics
- EECS 410 System Theory
- EECS 495 Introduction to Nonlinear Control Theory
Solid Mechanics Concentration – 4 courses

Required: One course in mathematics or basic sciences

Take three classes from the list below:

- ME 362 Stress Analysis
- CEE 319 Theory of Structures II (CEE 221 is a prerequisite)
- CEE 320 Structural Analysis
- ME 327 (CEE 327) Finite Element Methods in Mechanics
- ME 416 Computational Nanodynamics
- ME 413 Experimental Solid Mechanics
- ME 414 Mechanics of Composite Materials I
- CEE 417 Mechanics of Continua I
- ME 417 Multi-scale Modeling and Simulation in Solid Mechanics
- ME 426-I Advanced Finite Element Methods

If the course in basic math and science is 300-level or above, then one of the three other courses may be 200 level. An interesting choice here may be ME 260, Mechanics of Sports

Thermo-fluids Concentration – 4 courses

Required: One course in mathematics or basic sciences

Take three classes from the list below:

- ME 322 Thermodynamics II (if not taken as Advanced Study)
- ME 373 Engineering Fluid Mechanics (if not taken as Advanced Study)
- ME 420 Micro & Nanoscale Fluid Dynamics
- ME 423 Introduction to Computational Fluid Dynamics
- ME 424 Advanced Computational Fluid Dynamics
- ME 425 Introduction to Fluid Dynamics
- ME 427 Viscous Fluid Mechanics
- BME 450 Mass and Heat Transfer
- BME 452 Transport through Connective Tissues
Pre-Medical Concentration

Be sure to meet with a pre-med advisor early in your undergraduate career.

Note that the pre-med concentration requires students to use their “unrestricted electives” to complete the med school requirements for organic chemistry and biology.

In addition to the requirements listed below, med schools generally require:

- One year of General Chemistry with lab
- One year of Physics with lab (EA sequence replaces Physics 135-1. Should take Physics 135-2 and 135-3)
- One year of English/writing intensive (EDC counts for 1 quarter +2 courses from English or Comp Lit departments)
- Two or three quarters of Calculus

Required:
One year of Organic Chemistry with lab
This serves as a basic math and science tech elective and 2 unrestricted electives

Do one of the following two options:

Option 1: (7 courses)

BIO 215 – Genetics and Molecular Biology
BIO 216 – Cell Biology
BIO 217 - Physiology
BIO 218 – Biochemistry
BIO 220 – Genetic and Molecular Processes lab (0.3 credit)
BIO 221 – Cellular Processes lab (0.3 credit)
BIO 222 – Physiological Processes lab (0.3 credit)
Two 300-level ME tech electives

Option 2: (7.6 courses)

BIO 215 – Genetics and Molecular Biology
BIO 216 – Cell Biology
BIO 218 – Biochemistry
BIO 220 – Genetic and Molecular Processes lab (0.3 credit)
BIO 221 – Cellular Processes lab (0.3 credit)
BME 301, 302, 303 (all three courses are required by medical schools to replace BIO 217 and BIO 222)
One 300-level ME tech elective

The course schedule below assumes that a student begins with no A.P. credits. It shows one of several possible ways that a student could fulfill all degree requirements. If a student has some A.P. credits there is considerably more flexibility in the schedule. It is critical to meet with a pre-med advisor early to determine the best possible sequence of courses.