

engineering

Open Option



Did You Know?

The First-Year Engineering Projects course is an excellent way to explore the application of different engineering disciplines and work with students from a variety of majors.

Students:

239 first-year undergraduates

Advisors:

Open Option engineering staff advisors and freshman advisors are available in each engineering department to help guide students as they explore and choose an engineering major.

Rankings:

CU-Boulder is the only doctoral university in the Rocky Mountain region ranked in the top 20 public engineering programs in the nation (USNWR).

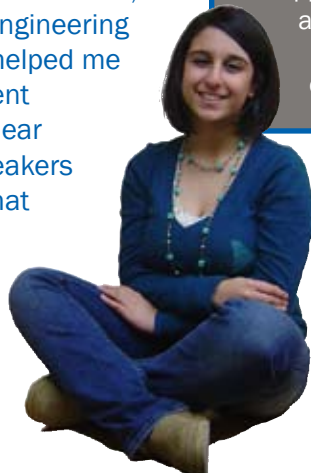
The College of Engineering and Applied Science provides the opportunity for new freshmen to delay their selection of a specific engineering major by enrolling in the Open Option (OPEN) program. By choosing Open Option engineering, students can begin their general engineering curriculum and get a feel for the various disciplines before choosing a major.

The Open Option Engineering program is available only to new freshmen, and students are required to select a specific engineering degree program by the end of the spring semester, regardless of when they entered the OPEN program. The Dean's Office provides general advising for all Open Option students. This advising is supplemented with the OPEN students having access to freshman faculty advisors in each engineering degree program they may be considering.

A variety of student support is also available to OPEN students through CU student service programs including Career Services, the Residential Academic Program, tutoring, etc.

“As an Open Option student, I took an intro to engineering class that really helped me see all the different disciplines. You hear from industry speakers and professors that tell about what engineers in different majors actually do.”

— Razan Naqeeb



Hands-on Learning

At CU, students learn by doing. A first-year projects course allows students to design, plan, and create real-world projects. Capstone senior design projects are typically sponsored by local and national industry, providing hands-on, relevant design experiences. Students can also participate in undergraduate research opportunities, service learning projects, internships, and industry co-ops.

Who should choose the Open Option engineering program?

- Students who want to study engineering but are unsure which engineering major they want to choose
- Students who are interested in engineering but are not sure if it's right for them

Open Option curriculum

Sample first year curriculum*

Fall Semester	Credits: 16	Spring Semester	Credits: 15-16
Calculus 1 Course	4	Calculus 2 course	4
College Chemistry Course	5	Calculus-based Physics course	4
Computer or Projects Course	3	Computer, projects, or discipline-specific course	3
Humanities or social science course	3	Humanities or social science course	3
Engineering introductory course	1	Engineering course (optional)	1-2

***This program is only available for the first year**

This tentative course schedule may vary depending upon the Open Option student transferring in Advanced Placement or prior college credit. It is not difficult to select courses for the Fall semester with assurance that all credits can be used to meet the requirements of all College of Engineering undergraduate degree programs. However, by the Spring semester, the student will need to make some course selections based upon an anticipated engineering major.

The OPEN student may not have the same level of access to engineering department courses as is available to the new freshmen who have selected a major in that department. The OPEN staff advisor will work toward providing the student with full-time semester course schedules; some substitution or rotation of courses may be necessary to provide the student with a complete schedule.

Students selecting the Open Option engineering program are subject to all College of Engineering and Applied Science academic rules and policies. They are also required to satisfy any remaining Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS) that are required for graduation. See the Advising Guide on Advanced Placement, IB, and MAPS for detailed information on this requirement.

If the OPEN student has other courses required for a special program, such as the Student Leadership Institute (President's Leadership Class), Reserve Officers Training Program (ROTC), or the Multicultural Engineering Program, these courses are usually inserted in the curriculum in substitution of the humanities or social science courses. The substitution of these courses does not assure the student that these courses will meet degree requirements; this will be determined by faculty from the student's major department once a specific engineering degree program has been selected.

For more information visit <http://engineering.colorado.edu>

College of Engineering and Applied Science undergraduate majors

Aerospace Engineering

Applied Mathematics

Architectural
Engineering

Chemical Engineering

Chemical and Biological
Engineering

Civil Engineering

Computer Science

Electrical and Computer
Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Engineering Physics

Environmental
Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

