Civil Engineering
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM

Civil engineers are innovators, creators, and entrepreneurs. They design and build bridges, buildings, dams, roller coasters, and sound stages for rock bands. They also devise complex systems—such as transportation and water-supply networks, and information systems for design and management of engineering projects.

If you enjoy science and math and think you’d like an opportunity to serve society by creating, maintaining, and upgrading the infrastructure we all rely on, this is a field worth investigating.

Civil engineers know how to evaluate risk and ensure the high reliability of their designs. Any creator of a stadium, suspension bridge, or drinking-water system will tell you that failure is not an option.

As a Cornell Civil Engineering student working with some of the world’s top engineering faculty members and fellow students, you’ll also obtain the skills you need to make sound business decisions. You’ll learn not only engineering theory and how to apply it, but also learn how to use your intellect to navigate the ins and outs of today’s complex business arena. (You may also decide to stay on for an additional year to participate in Cornell’s graduate-level engineering management program, which is taught by Civil Engineering faculty members.) Many Civil Engineering graduates go on to take leadership positions in established companies or start their own firms.

At Cornell you’ll have the opportunity to specialize in one or more areas of the Civil Engineering field such as environmental fluid mechanics, geotechnical engineering, hydrology, structural engineering, transportation engineering, or water resources. If you’re most interested in Environmental Engineering, there’s a degree program devoted to that specialty area (see the flyer for Environmental Engineering). Or you can work with an advisor to plan a more general Civil Engineering program that suits your interests.

You’ll have ample opportunity to participate in community activities by joining the award-winning student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Every year the ASCE chapter participates in national competitions to build and race a concrete canoe and to design and build a steel bridge. The group also sponsors community-service projects. In addition, ASCE hosts several intramural teams, organizes social outings, and sets up study sessions for the professional-licensing exam.
Civil Engineering faculty members also contribute to the university's Systems Engineering master's degree program, teach classes leading to professional master's degrees in both Civil Engineering specialty areas, as well as provide instruction and research opportunities for students pursuing Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in the full gamut of Civil Engineering concentrations.

Some Areas of Faculty Research
- civil engineering materials
- engineering management
- geotechnical engineering
- remote sensing
- structural engineering
- structural mechanics
- transportation engineering and planning
- transportation systems

Master of Engineering Degree Program
The one-year Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree will prepare you to hit the ground running and stand out in the career of your choice.

The School of Civil and Environmental Engineering offers the M.Eng. in Engineering Management and in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Engineering Management is for students who seek leadership positions in management of projects, people, and organizations, combining engineering competency with managerial skills to bring about the efficient development of technology. Engineering managers play a key role in advancing technology through strategic and operational decision-making. They guide the development of technology with high-level expertise and a broad perspective on how technology impacts economies, enhances social structures, and impacts the larger global environment.

Civil and environmental engineers strive for harmony and balance between the constructed human environment and the natural world. Areas of focus include clean air and water, efficient transportation systems, urban renewal, and rural development. Every aspect—including design, development, creation, operation, and renewal—is directed at optimization of the human experience while preserving the health of the natural environment.

Check out www.engineering.cornell.edu/meng

Important Numbers (for 2007)

Starting Salaries of B.S. Civil Engineering graduates
- Low $43,000
- Mean $53,347
- High $65,000

Civil Engineering undergraduate students 159
Civil Engineering graduate students 129