

Center for the Study of Higher Education

# Welcome UNIVERSITY students!

Thanks for checking us out! We need your help. The National Academy of Engineering has identified the knowledge and skills that engineers will need to succeed in the workplace of the future. This National Science Foundation-funded study is designed to benchmark the current state of undergraduate engineering education and find out if we're making progress toward those goals. To do that, we're surveying students at 35 colleges and universities around the country. (You can find out who else is participating at <a href="http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/e2020/p2p-participating-institutions.">http://www.educ/e2020/p2p-participating-institutions.</a>)

We know you're busy, so we will really appreciate your help. We also think you may find completing this survey a good opportunity to reflect on your engineering education to-date.

The next page outlines your rights as a research participant and provides more details on the study.



This study is funded by the National Science Foundation and endorsed by the following associations and professional engineering societies:













# **Educating the Engineer of 2020 Student Survey**

### Personal Information

### 1. What is your current class standing?

- O First-year student
- ${\mathbf O}$  Sophomore
- $\mathbf{O} \ \ \mathsf{Junior}$
- O Senior
- O Fifth-year student or higher

### 2. What is your major?

- O Undecided/undeclared in engineering
- O Bio-medical or Bio-engineering
- O Chemical Engineering
- O Civil Engineering
- **O** Electrical Engineering
- **O** General Engineering/Engineering Science
- **O** Industrial Engineering
- O Mechanical Engineering
- O Other engineering discipline (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

# 3. When you entered this institution, were you:

- **O** A first-time college student
- O A transfer student from a community or two-year college
- **O** A transfer student from a four-year institution
- O A "3+2 program" with a four-year institution

#### 4. What is your gender?

- O Man
- O Woman

#### 5. How old:

Are you now? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you when you first entered college? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you will be when you complete your bachelor's degree? \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Are you: (check all that apply)

African American

Caucasian/White

- □ Asian American
- Hispanic/Latino/a American
- Native American

Naturalized U.S. citizen

Foreign national (i.e., citizen of another country)

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



7. What is the <u>highest</u> level of formal schooling that you and each of your parents/guardians have completed?

	Mother/Guardian	Father/Guardian
Did not finish high school	Ο	0
High school graduate/GED	Ο	Ο
Attended college but did not receive a degree	Ο	Ο
Vocational/technical certificate or diploma	Ο	Ο
Associate or other 2-year degree	Ο	Ο
Bachelor's or other 4-year degree	Ο	Ο
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc	Ο	Ο
Doctorate degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)	Ο	0

### 8. Did you take the SAT or ACT tests? (Please respond to all that apply)

- □ No. I did not take either exam.
- □ Yes, I took the SAT exams, and my scores were approximately:

SAT Critical Reading \_\_\_\_\_

SAT Writing \_\_\_\_\_

SAT Math \_\_\_\_\_

□ Yes, I took the ACT exam, and my composite score was approximately\_\_\_\_\_

### 9. What was/is your approximate academic average in:

	High School	Your engineering program
1.49 or below (Below C-)	0	0
1.50-1.99 (C- to C)	0	0
2.00-2.49 (C to B-)	Ο	0
2.50-2.99 (B- to B)	Ο	0
3.00-3.49 (B to A-)	Ο	0
3.50-4.00 (A- to A)	Ο	0
Not applicable	Ο	0



### ENGINEERING SKILLS

<u>Instructions</u>: In the following section, you will be asked to rate your skill level and abilities in a variety of areas. If you're unfamiliar with, <u>or have had no experience with</u>, any of these, select the "Weak/none" option.

### 10. <u>Applying Math & Science</u>. Please rate your ability to apply:

	Weak/ none	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Math to engineering problems	0	0	0	0	0
The physical sciences to engineering problems	О	0	0	О	0
Computer tools and applications to engineering problems	О	0	0	О	0
Life sciences to engineering problems	Ο	0	0	Ο	Ο

### 11. <u>Defining Problems and Generating Design Solutions</u>. Please rate your ability to:

	Weak/ none	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Define design problems and objectives clearly and precisely.	0	0	0	О	Ο
Ask questions to understand what a client/customer really wants in a "product."	0	0	0	О	0
Undertake a search (literature review, databases, benchmarking, reverse- engineering, etc.) before beginning team-based brain-storming.	0	0	0	O	0
Take into account the design contexts and the constraints they may impose on each possible solution (social, cultural, economic, environmental, political, ethical, etc.).	0	0	0	0	O
Generate and prioritize criteria for evaluating the quality of a solution.	0	0	0	0	0
Brainstorm possible engineering solutions.	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο
Apply systems thinking in developing solutions to an engineering problem.	0	0	0	0	0
Develop pictorial representations of possible designs (sketches, renderings, engineering drawings, etc.).	0	0	0	0	0
Evaluate design solutions based on a specified set of criteria.	0	0	0	О	0
Producing a product (prototype, program, simulation, etc.).	0	0	0	0	0



<u>Instructions</u>: In the following section, you will be asked to rate your skill level and abilities in a variety of areas. If you're unfamiliar with, <u>or have had no experience with</u>, any of these, select the "Weak/none" option.

### 12. <u>Managing a Design Project</u>. Please rate your ability to:

	Weak/none	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Break down a design project into manageable components or tasks.	O	0	О	О	О
Identify team members' strengths/weaknesses and distribute tasks and workload accordingly.	0	0	0	O	0
Recognize when changes to the original understanding of the problem may be necessary.	0	O	0	O	0
Monitor the design process to ensure goals are being met.	0	O	О	O	О
Put aside differences within a design team to get the work done.	0	0	0	0	0

## 13. Engineering Contexts. Please rate your:

	Weak/none	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Knowledge of contexts (social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, ethical, etc.) that might affect the solution to an engineering problem.	О	0	0	0	О
Knowledge of the connections between technological solutions and their implications for the society or groups they are intended to benefit.	О	0	0	0	О
Ability to use what you know about different cultures, social values, or political systems in developing engineering solutions.	О	0	0	0	О
Ability to recognize how different contexts can change a solution	0	О	0	О	0



Instructions: In the following section, you will be asked to rate your skill level and abilities in a variety of areas. If you're unfamiliar with, or have had no experience with, any of these, select the "Weak/none" option.

### 14. <u>Communication</u>. Please rate your ability to:

	Weak/none	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Write a well-organized, coherent report.	0	0	0	0	0
Make effective audiovisual presentations.	0	0	0	0	0
Construct tables or graphs to communicate a solution.	0	0	0	0	0
Communicate effectively with clients, teammates, and supervisors.	0	0	0	0	0
Communicate effectively with <i>non-technical</i> audiences.	0	0	0	0	0
Communicate effectively with people from different cultures or countries.	0	0	0	0	0

# 15. <u>Teamwork</u>. Please rate your ability to:

	Weak/none	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Work with others to accomplish group goals.	О	0	0	О	0
Work in teams of people with a variety of skills and backgrounds.	0	0	0	О	0
Work in teams where knowledge and ideas from multiple engineering fields must be applied.	0	0	0	O	0
Work in teams that include people from fields outside engineering.	0	0	0	О	0

### 16. <u>Leadership</u>. Please rate your ability to:

	Weak/none	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Help your group or organization work through periods when ideas are too many or too few.	0	0	0	0	0
Develop a plan to accomplish a group or organization's goals.	0	0	0	0	0
Take responsibility for group's or	0	0	0	0	0
Motivate people to do the work that needs to be done.	0	0	0	0	Ο



### Instructions: Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

# 17. Interdisciplinary Knowledge and Skills. Do you agree or disagree?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I value reading about topics outside of engineering (history, business, politics, the cultures of other parts of the world, etc.).	O	0	0	0	О
I enjoy thinking about how different fields approach the same problem in different ways.	0	0	0	0	О
Not all engineering problems have purely technical solutions.	О	0	0	0	О
In solving engineering problems I often seek information from experts in other academic fields.	О	0	0	0	О
Given knowledge and ideas from different fields, I can figure out what is appropriate for solving a problem.	О	0	0	0	О
I see connections between ideas in engineering and ideas in the humanities and social sciences.	О	0	0	0	О
I can take ideas from <u>outside engineering</u> and synthesize them in ways that help me better understand or explain a problem.	0	О	0	0	О
I can use what I have learned in one field in another setting or to solve a new problem.	0	0	0	0	0

# 18. <u>Recognizing Perspectives</u>. Do you agree or disagree?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I often step back and reflect on what I am thinking to determine whether I might be missing something.	0	0	0	0	О
I frequently stop to think about where I might be going wrong or right with a problem solution.	0	0	0	0	О
If asked, I could identify the <i>kinds of knowledge and ideas</i> that are distinctive to different fields of study (chemistry, psychology, literature, etc.).	0	0	0	0	О
I recognize the kinds of evidence that different fields of study rely on.	0	0	0	0	О
I'm good at figuring out what experts in different fields have missed in explaining a problem or proposing a solution.	0	О	0	0	О
I usually know when my own biases are getting in the way of my understanding of a problem or finding a solution.	О	О	0	0	О

Instructions: Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

# 19. <u>Recognizing Perspectives</u>. Do you agree or disagree?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I often step back and reflect on what I am thinking to determine whether I might be missing something.	0	О	О	О	0
I frequently stop to think about where I might be going wrong or right with a problem solution.	0	0	О	0	0
If asked, I could identify the <i>kinds of knowledge and ideas</i> that are distinctive to different fields of study (chemistry, psychology, literature, etc.).	0	0	О	0	0
I recognize the kinds of evidence that different fields of study rely on.	0	0	О	О	0
I'm good at figuring out what experts in different fields have missed in explaining a problem or proposing a solution.	0	0	0	0	0
I usually know when my own biases are getting in the way of my understanding of a problem or finding a solution.	0	0	0	0	0



# PROGRAM EMPHASES

**Instructions:** Overall, <u>how much have the courses you've taken</u> in your engineering program <u>emphasized</u> each of the following:

# 20. Topics in Engineering

	Little/no emphasis	Slight	Moderate	Strong	Very strong
Ethical issues in engineering practice.	О	0	О	0	0
The importance of life-long learning.	О	0	О	0	0
Examining my beliefs and values and how they affect my ethical decisions.	О	0	О	0	0
The value of gender, racial/ethnic, or cultural diversity in engineering.	Ο	0	О	0	0
Creativity and innovation.	О	0	О	0	0
Current workforce and economic trends (globalization, outsourcing, etc.).	О	0	О	0	0
Emerging engineering technologies.	О	0	О	0	0
How theories are used in engineering practice.	О	0	О	0	О

# 21. Professional Skills

	Little/no emphasis	Slight	Moderate	Strong	Very strong
Professional skills (knowing codes and standards, being on time, meeting deadlines, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
Written and oral communication skills	0	0	0	0	0
Leadership skills	Ο	0	0	0	0
Working effectively in teams	0	0	0	0	0
Project management skills (budgeting, monitoring progress, managing people, etc.)	О	О	0	0	0



**Instructions:** Overall, how much have the courses you've taken in your engineering program emphasized each of the following:

### 22. Problem Solving

	Little/no emphasis	Slight	Moderate	Strong	Very strong
Understanding how an engineering solution can be shaped by environmental, cultural, economic, and other considerations	0	О	O	О	0
Understanding how non-engineering fields can help solve engineering problems	0	0	0	0	0
Systems thinking	0	0	О	Ο	Ο
Applying knowledge from other fields to solve an engineering problem	0	0	О	0	0
Defining a design problem	0	0	0	Ο	0
Generating and evaluating ideas about how to solve an engineering problem	0	Ο	О	0	0

# 23. Since starting your engineering program, approximately <u>how many months</u> have you spent participating in each of the following:

Undergraduate research activities \_\_\_\_\_

Engineering internship \_\_\_\_

An engineering cooperative education experience

# 24. <u>How important to your academic success</u> in engineering are the services of a learning/tutoring center at your college?

- O Not at all important
- **O** Slightly important
- **O** Moderately important
- O Very important
- O Extremely important

# 25. Approximately how many courses have you completed to date in the following fields:

Humanities (history, art, literature, foreign languages, etc.)

Social sciences (economics, sociology, political science, psychology, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_



### CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

## 26. In your <u>engineering</u> courses, how often have your instructors:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Set clear expectations for performance	Ο	Ο	О	Ο	О
Only covered what was in the textbook	Ο	Ο	О	О	Ο
Conveyed the same material in multiple ways (in writing, diagrams, orally, etc.)	0	0	О	0	О
Explained new concepts by linking them to what students already know	0	0	O	0	0
Used examples, cases, or metaphors to explain concepts	0	0	Ο	Ο	0
Answered questions or gone over material until students "got it"	0	0	O	0	О
Provided guidance or training in how to work effectively in groups	0	0	Ο	0	0
Lectured	Ο	0	О	Ο	Ο
Provided hands-on activities and/or assignments	0	0	Ο	0	0
Used in-class, small group learning	О	Ο	O	0	О
Assigned group projects	О	0	О	0	О

# 27. In your <u>engineering</u> courses, how often do:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Male students treat other male students better than female students	0	0	0	0	0
White students treat other white students better than non-white students	0	0	О	О	О
When working in groups, male students treat other male students better than female students	0	0	О	О	О
When working in groups, white students treat other white students better than non-white students.	O	O	O	О	O
Instructors treat male students better than female students	0	0	0	0	О
Instructors treat white students better than non-white students	0	0	0	0	0
Women students get treated better than male students	0	0	0	0	0
Minority students get treated better than white students	0	0	0	0	0



# 28. Do you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Some engineering students use offensive words, behaviors, or gestures directed at students because of their gender.	0	0	0	О	О
Some engineering students use offensive words, behaviors, or gestures directed at students because of their race/ethnicity.	О	О	0	O	О
My gender has or will influence my choice of engineering field.	0	0	0	0	0
My gender will negatively influence my engineering career.	0	0	0	0	0
My race/ethnicity has or will influence my choice of engineering field.	0	0	0	0	0
My race/ethnicity will negatively influence my engineering career.	Ο	0	0	0	0

### EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

## 29. During the past year, how active have you been in:

	Not active	Slightly active (attend occasionally)	Moderately active (attend regularly)	Highly active (participate in most activities)	Extremely active (hold a leadership post)
An engineering club or student chapter of a professional society (IEEE, ASME, ASCE, etc.)	О	О	0	0	0
Other engineering-related clubs or programs for women and/or minority students (e.g. NSBE, SHPE, SWE, WISE, etc.)	О	О	0	0	0
Other clubs or activities (hobbies, civic or church organizations, campus publications, student government, Greek life, sports, etc.)	О	О	0	0	0



### 30. During the past year, about how many weeks did you spend participating in:

Study abroad or on an international, school-related tour \_\_\_\_

Humanitarian engineering projects (Engineers without Borders, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Non-engineering related community service or volunteer work \_\_\_\_\_

Student design project(s)/competition(s) beyond class requirements \_\_\_\_\_

# 31. <u>During the past six months</u>, about how many times did you meet outside of class with a faculty member to: (count only <u>conversations of 10 minutes or more</u>)

Discuss academic or course-related matters \_\_\_\_\_

Ask about careers or get professional advice \_\_\_\_\_

Talk informally \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER EXPERIENCES

# 32. Did you complete your associate's degree before transferring to your four-year college?

- O Yes
- O No
- 33. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "My community or two-year college advisor was very knowledgeable of the transfer process?"
  - O Strongly disagree
  - O Disagree
  - O Neither agree nor disagree
  - $\mathbf{O}$  Agree
  - O Strongly agree

# 34. How many courses did you complete at a community or two-year college in the following areas?

Calculus
Chemistry
Physics
Computer programming
Introduction or overview of engineering
Other engineering courses

# 35. How well did your community or two-year college <u>math</u> courses prepare you for your engineering major?

- O Not at all
- O Slightly
- **O** Moderately
- O Well
- O Very well



36. How does the community or two-year college you transferred from compare to the school you're now attending in:

	Very poorly	Poorly	About the same	Better	Much better
Quality of teaching	0	Ο	0	0	0
Availability of instructors outside of class	0	О	0	О	0
Availability of staff and advisors	0	Ο	0	0	0
Scheduling flexibility (courses offered when you need/want them)	0	0	0	0	0
Academic support services	0	Ο	0	Ο	0
Willingness to help students whose first language is not English	0	O	О	O	0

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 37. In a typical week, how many hours do you spend:

Preparing for class (studying, doing homework or lab work, and other academic activities) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Working for pay \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting family responsibilities(care of siblings, children, other family members) \_\_\_\_\_

Commuting to and from school or work \_\_\_\_\_

### 38. Three years after you graduate, how likely is it that you will:

	Definitely won't	Probably won't	Not sure	Probably will	Definitely will
Be self-employed in engineering	0	Ο	0	0	0
Be a practicing engineer in industry, government, or non-profit organization	0	О	О	0	О
Work in engineering management or sales	0	0	0	0	0
Work outside engineering	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	О
Be in graduate school preparing to become an engineering faculty member	0	О	О	О	О
Be in graduate school in engineering preparing to work in industry, government, or non-profit organization	0	O	0	0	0
Be in graduate school in a field other than engineering (business, medicine, law, etc.)	0	О	О	0	О



### Center for the Study of Higher Education

### 39. Have you been enrolled at your current institution primarily:

- O Full-time
- O Part-time

#### 40. Is English your native language?

- O Yes
- O No

#### 41. What was the first math course you took after completing high school?

- **O** Math required prior to algebra
- O Another math course (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, etc.)
- O Calculus or above

#### 42. Since enrolling in college, how many years have you lived:

In a general residence hall

In a residence area specifically for majors in engineering, science, or math

In a fraternity or sorority \_\_\_\_\_

With parents, spouse/domestic partner, or other relatives \_\_\_\_\_

Off-campus in private quarters \_\_\_\_\_

#### 43. Have you taken the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam?

- O No
- O Yes in (most recent year) \_\_\_\_\_

#### 44. Did you pass?

- O Yes
- O No
- **O** Not applicable

**Thank you very much for your participation!** The responses you have given us will help engineering programs nationwide improve their educational practices. If you have any questions about this study please contact us at <u>e2020@psu.edu</u>. You can also follow the progress of this study at <u>http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/e2020/p2p</u>.

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