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MSU College of Engineering Admit When Ready Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is “Admit When Ready,” and how does it work?

The College of Engineering is beginning a three-year pilot program to admit students at whatever time they meet the academic requirements in the catalog (“Academic Programs”), without waiting to complete 56 credits.

At the end of every semester, the records of all freshmen and sophomore engineering students will be reviewed to determine if they

- have completed 12 MSU credits, including at least six technical credits
- have declared a specific engineering major (other than Engineering No-Preference),
- have completed core courses or equivalents (MTH 132 and 133, PHY 183, CEM 141 and a computing course specific to the major; CEM not required for computer science), and
- have the required combined cumulative/technical GPA for admission to the declared major.

The computing course required for Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering is CSE 231; for other majors, CSE 131 is required.

When these requirements are met, students will be admitted to the College of Engineering. If not, they will remain in “continuing status” in the Undergraduate University Division. All freshmen and sophomores declared engineering will be reviewed again at the end of every semester until they reach 56 credits, when they must be admitted to a degree-granting college. No application is required, and none will be accepted until the semester in which a student will complete 56 credits (more on this later in this document).

This program will be referred to as **“Admit When Ready” (AWR)**. It has been approved by the Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee (EUSC), the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP), and the Provost.

Why is this program being piloted?

Most engineering students complete the required core courses earlier than the time they reach 56 credits. At that time, if the GPA requirements are met, students should be pursuing courses toward completion of their intended degrees. Previously, some students that were “ready” have delayed taking some required courses to ensure they would have the required GPA at a point in the future.

Does this mean that some incoming freshmen with AP credits may be admitted at the time they enter MSU?

Not quite. Students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits at MSU, with six of them in technical courses. So some students may be admitted at the end of their first semester.

What are technical courses?

Most courses in Engineering, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biological Sciences. Most courses offered by the College of Engineering and the College of Natural Science. Exceptions are remedial mathematics and those which are primarily seminars rather than courses grounded in math or science.

If I start in a lower math course than others, will the seats all be “taken” by the time I complete the core courses?

No. When you complete the core courses (generally after Calculus II and Physics I), you will be considered for admission with the other students that have completed the core at that time, regardless of which courses you started with, or when.

What if I will reach 56 credits before I complete the required core courses or attain the required GPA?

At the time you reach 56 credits, you must be admitted to a degree-granting college. If you are not yet ready for admission to engineering, you will likely be eligible for admission to another college. If you complete the requirements in a later term, you can apply for admission to Engineering. See an [advisor](#) to discuss your options.

If admitted as a freshman or sophomore, who will be my engineering advisor?

Advisors are assigned by class (freshman, sophomore, etc.), not by admission status. See [this web page](#) to find your engineering advisor.

If admitted as a freshman or sophomore, must I pay the Engineering Fee?

At present, the engineering fee is tied to class, not admission to the College. Only juniors, seniors and graduate students are charged the engineering fee.

300 and 400 level courses are restricted to juniors and seniors. If admitted, will I be able to take them?

Prior to this pilot program, admission and junior standing were equivalent, so course restrictions were written to check for junior standing. If you are early-enrolling for a course in a term in which you are projected to be a junior, there should be no problem. If you will have the required prerequisite courses to take a higher level course while still a freshman and sophomore, you may need an override. See your [advisor](#) or [our course overrides page](#).

If I am a freshman or sophomore engineering student, and want to change to my major, how do I do that?

- If you are “continuing” and not yet admitted to Engineering, you should contact the [Undergraduate University Division \(UUD\) office](#).

- If you have been admitted to Engineering, and wish to change to another Engineering major, you should fill out an **application** and your request will be considered at the end of the semester after your new grades are posted.
- If you are admitted to Engineering, and wish to change to a non-Engineering major, pick up your file in room 1415 Engineering Building. You will be referred to the **Undergraduate University Division (UUD) Office** that serves your housing location to complete your major change.

How do I apply for admission?

- If you are a **freshman or sophomore student with fewer than 56 credits, with a specific declared engineering major**, **no application will be accepted**. You will be automatically reviewed at the end of each semester, and admitted if qualified.
- If you are a **freshman or sophomore in another college**, have fewer than 56 credits, and wish to change to an engineering major, go to the **Undergraduate University Division (UUD) Office** that serves you. When your major change is posted, you will be placed in “continuing” status. You will be assigned an **engineering advisor** and reviewed for admission at the end of the semester.
- If you are an **engineering student who will reach 56 credits at the end of the semester**, have declared the major of your choice, have completed the required core courses, and expect to have the required cumulative/technical GPA, **no application is necessary**. You will automatically be considered and will be admitted if the requirements are met.
- If you are an **engineering student who will reach 56 credits at the end of the semester**, are not sure if you will have the required GPA, and wish to specify an alternate choice of a major with a lower GPA requirement, you should **file an application through the College of Engineering**. Depending on your GPA, you will be admitted to your first choice major, admitted to an alternate choice major, or denied. If denied and in good standing, you must change your major to one in another college. See your **advisor** for more information about your options.
- If you are a **student in another college who will have completed 56 or more credits by the end of the current semester**, you should **file an application through the College of Engineering**. You may also wish to make an appointment with an **engineering advisor**.