Biomedical Engineering, B.S.E.

The department provides undergraduate students with a contemporary education in a multidisciplinary field of engineering. Its objective is to produce graduates who:

- contribute to the biomedical field through the responsible design of devices, systems, processes, and policies that improve human health;
- pursue a wide range of career options, including those in industry, academia, and medicine; and
- advance to leadership positions in their chosen field.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Engineering requires a minimum of 128 s.h. The major in biomedical engineering builds on the foundation provided by the B.S.E. core requirements, preparing students for the challenges and opportunities associated with careers in the profession.

The program has been designed carefully to enable students to satisfy the entrance requirements of the Graduate College. Students whose choice of electives includes a three-course sequence in organic chemistry, an additional biology course, and a biochemistry course may satisfy entrance requirements of the Carver College of Medicine, the College of Dentistry, or the allied health sciences.

All engineering students complete the B.S.E. core requirements, which include RHET:1030 Rhetoric; ENGR:1100 Introduction to Engineering Problem Solving and ENGR:1300 Introduction to Engineering Computing; and courses in chemistry, engineering mathematics and fundamentals, and physics. They must earn a grade of C-minus or higher in the core requirements MATH:1550 Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus and MATH:1560 Engineering Mathematics II: Multivariable Calculus.

Students also complete the curriculum designed for their major program, which covers four stems: mathematics and basic sciences, engineering topics, an elective focus area, and the general education component (15 s.h. of humanities and social science courses). For information about the curriculum stems, see Bachelor of Science in Engineering in the Catalog.

Biomedical engineering students must choose a track, which constitutes the elective focus area for the biomedical engineering major. They may choose one of four preapproved tracks—bioinformatics and computational biology, bioimaging, biomechanics and biomaterials, and cellular engineering. Each track may be designated pre-medicine by taking the necessary track electives. Each approved track has a group of four required courses and a list of suggested electives. For details about tracks and their requirements, visit Biomedical Engineering Tracks on the department's website.

Combined Programs

B.S.E./M.S.

The College of Engineering offers a combined Bachelor of Science in Engineering/Master of Science for biomedical engineering undergraduate students who intend to earn a M.S. in biomedical engineering. Students admitted to this program are allowed to apply three engineering courses (9 s.h.) towards both the B.S.E. and M.S. degree requirements, take an additional 3 s.h. of graduate course work before completing their B.S.E., and attend and participate in the departmental graduate seminar. Students may begin to work on their course work or master's thesis starting as early as the summer following the junior year of undergraduate studies.

Students applying to the B.S.E./M.S. program in biomedical engineering must meet the following criteria at the time of application:

- a minimum of 80 s.h. completed towards their B.S.E. degree,
- a cumulative g.p.a. of 3.50 or higher, and
- identification of a thesis or project mentor.

B.S.E./M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

B.S.E. students majoring in biomedical engineering who are interested in earning a Master of Science in electrical and computer engineering may apply to the combined B.S.E./M.S. program offered by the College of Engineering. The combined program permits students to count a limited amount of credit toward the requirements of both degrees. See M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Catalog.

B.S.E./M.S. in Occupational and Environmental Health

B.S.E. students majoring in biomedical engineering in the biomechanics and biomaterials track who are interested in earning a Master of Science in occupational and environmental health with an industrial hygiene subprogram may apply to the combined B.S.E./M.S. program offered by the College of Engineering and the College of Public Health. The combined program permits students to count a limited amount of credit toward the requirements of both degrees, enabling them to begin the study of public health before they complete the bachelor’s degree. See M.S. in Occupational and Environmental Health (College of Public Health) in the Catalog.

Career Advancement

B.S.E. graduates with a major in biomedical engineering may pursue career opportunities in biomedical industries, such as design and development of biomedical instrumentation, diagnostic aids, life-support systems, prosthetic and orthotic devices, and man-machine systems; or they may pursue traditional career opportunities in industry, such as those rooted in mechanical or electrical engineering disciplines. Other career options are available in government (Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health, Veterans Affairs). Some biomedical engineering graduates elect to continue formal education in engineering, medicine, or law. On average, 93-98 percent of graduates are employed in their field of study or pursuing advanced education within seven months of graduation.

Engineering Professional Development (EPD) develops and promotes experiential education and professional opportunities for students in the College of Engineering. Professional staff coordinate the college’s co-op and internship program, engage in employer outreach, and provide opportunities for students to network with employers,
including an engineering career fair each semester and other programming related to career development.

EPD also offers individual advising and class presentations on résumé and cover letter preparation, job and internship search strategies, interviewing skills, and job offer evaluation.