

# FAQ's About Chemical Engineering

## 1. ChE v CHM: What is the difference between Chemical Engineering and Chemistry?

<https://www.thoughtco.com/chemistry-and-chemical-engineering-differences-606443>

## 2. STUDY ABROAD: Can I study abroad as part of the program?

Yes

## 3. INTERNSHIPS?

Many students choose to pursue at minimum one internship, often during the summer, to gain industry experience while learning outside of the academic realm. The common reasons students indicate for an internship, or several, versus the Co-Op program are:

- Diversity of companies and industry which they may have the opportunity to experience
- Internship has more flexibility to potentially work for Company A and then Company B
- Potential to work various positions or projects with the different companies
- Work experience during the summers usually does not affect a student's graduation timeline

## 4. What is the CO-OP Program? Does it extend my graduation date?

Cooperative Education (Co-Op) programs offer numerous benefits for students looking to gain real-world experience before they graduate. This program allows a strong relationship to forge between the student and employer. Due to having several sessions, allotting substantial time with the company, many students are provided more important projects and increased responsibility with diverse roles within their company. With the program, students also earn a significant and competitive salary while working. While not guaranteed, many co-op students are offered interviews or full-time positions with their host employer upon graduation. There are currently three main avenues of the Co-Op Program students may pursue:

- 5-session:** students will gain approximately 20-22 months of professional experience while alternating between semesters on campus taking classes and working with their Professional Practice Employer. All five work sessions are with the same employer/company.
- 3-session:** students will gain approximately 12 months of professional experience while alternating between semesters on campus taking classes and working with their Professional Practice Employer.
- Flex:** students and employers commit to a minimum of 2 work sessions, then either have the option to keep going for 1-3 additional terms, or to start a work session rotation with a new student/employer for a minimum of 2 work sessions.

Participation in the Co-Op program does in fact extend the date of when a student will graduate. However, many find the positives of the experience, connections/networks, projects, and money for college far outweigh the graduation date pushed out one year. Again, many students do have an interview with the company they worked with, and, a higher rate are offered a permanent position (although not guaranteed). When a student is on a work session during any term, you pay a \$400 fee for continuous full-time student status with the University, not the tuition/fees paid when enrolled in courses, so the extension of time is not a cost burden rather assists with school and other costs.

The program is a transcript-recorded experience and provides an academic certificate upon completion.

**5. Can I do undergraduate research?**

A big part of Purdue University, is the recognition as a Tier 1 research institution. The School of Chemical Engineering is a contributor to research as an experiential teaching to and a reliance on the bright minds of our undergraduate students to assist in these opportunities. Our School continuously expounds on processes, manufacturing, and effects of different materials in numerous fields impacting our industry and everyday lives.

**6. What is the admission requirement for Chemical Engineering?**

At Purdue University, the Office of Admissions is charged with the handling and reviews of all applications for new incoming undergraduate students for every degree area at the institution. Our School does not see or review applications for admission, and, the Office of Admissions will offer admittance to the First Year Engineering Program, FYE.

**a. FYE**

As a high school applicant for entrance to Purdue University, admission is offered into First Year Engineering. All students begin here to complete the foundational coursework for success into a professional school, like Chemical Engineering, allowing for degree progression while utilizing the first year to explore the multitude of disciplines the College of Engineering has to offer. All courses taken in FYE are found on the degree plan for the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

**b. T2M**

Transition to Major, referred to as T2M, is the admission process from First Year Engineering to the School of Chemical Engineering as well as all engineering disciplines. Admission is based upon completion of specific coursework, as done in "FYE", and the GPA established in the outlined required courses.