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Subject: **Pre-Engineering Program**

Dear Prospective Engineering Student,

Queens College does not have an engineering program of its own, but it does have one of the finest pre-engineering programs in the country. The program is administered by the Physics Department. The basis of the pre-engineering program is the formal articulation agreements it has with the Columbia University engineering school. I am the liaison officer of the program, and also a professor in the Physics Department.

The Columbia plan is a 3-2 plan. After completing your degree requirements, generally within three years at Queens College, you are automatically transferred to the engineering school at Columbia University, provided that you have satisfied the articulated course requirements and have maintained at least a 3.30 GPA while at Queens. You then spend two years at Columbia to complete the engineering program of your choice. At the end of this five-year program you will earn an engineering B.S. degree from Columbia and a B.A. degree in any one of the disciplines from Queens College.

Specific requirements to be satisfied to guarantee admission to Columbia are discussed in the following pages. You may still get accepted to Columbia even if you do not meet the GPA requirements, but acceptance is not guaranteed. We have had several students who have not been accepted in their first year, and re-applied successfully. Others have been accepted and later chosen to defer to a Master's or PhD program elsewhere. The curriculum requirements for pre-engineering satisfy a range of future careers and provides a smart student cohort at Queens College.

Yet the advantages for this route to an engineering degree from Columbia are cost and location. The tuition at Queens College is a fraction of the tuition at Columbia, so the cost of your engineering degree will be significantly less than if you enter Columbia as a freshman. Further, most of our 3-2 Columbia plan students live in Queens or Nassau County, therefore, the cost and time of commuting are greatly reduced.

Once you have read the following information for the program requirements, please take a look at the requirements and the sequence of classes for the Pre-engineering program available: <http://www.physics.qc.edu/undergraduate-programs/>. You will want to take Physics 145/146 and get your non-physics requirements completed as soon as possible.

If you are still interested in the Pre-engineering program, please sign up for an appointment during my office hours [visit the physics office (SB B324) for office hours]. Prior to meeting you should have your transfer credits already evaluated, either by the college, or by the physics transfer credit advisor.

If you are planning to major in physics and need the "declaration of major" form signed, you should see the department major advisor, who will provide further information about department-specific activities.

Good luck, and believe in the many opportunities available to you at Queens College!

Dr. So Takei  
Assistant Professor in Physics

## The Pre-engineering Program

Queens College does not offer a degree in engineering, but, like many liberal arts colleges in the United States, it has a collection of courses that are the equivalent of the majority of those taken in the first years of an engineering curriculum. In addition to these traditional offerings, Queens College offers a number of more specialized courses designed primarily for engineering students. Thus, by choosing a proper selection of courses, **Queens College students can usually transfer into third or fourth semester of most engineering programs in the United States.**

Articulated transfer agreement has been worked out with Columbia University, one of the leading engineering schools in the country so that Queens College students, after completing three years of course work at the College, can transfer to Columbia with minimum difficulty. Students who might wish to transfer to an engineering school with which Queens College does not have an articulated transfer plan should consult the catalog of that school when planning their academic programs at Queens. You should also plan to visit any institution you think may match your interests. In any case, it is important for you to begin considering different engineering schools and start collecting their catalogs early in your career at Queens College.

The Columbia plan is a 3-2 plan, in which the student takes additional liberal arts courses and spends three years at Queens and two at the Columbia engineering school. At the completion of the program, the student receives two degrees: a bachelor's degree in engineering from Columbia, and the B.A. degree in his/her chosen major from Queens College. **Most students opt for majoring in Physics at QC due to the considerable overlap between the B.A. Applied Physics option and the Pre-Engineering requirements. Moreover, the level of rigor associated with the physics degree often aids students who do not meet the GPA requirements for automatic transfer.** In addition to the pre-engineering course requirements, the student should complete the major degree course requirements towards his/her B.A. degree while at QC.

## Admission criteria and information

A **guaranteed admission** into Combined Plan Program is offered to applicants who have met **all** of the following requirements:

1. Full-time enrollment at QC for at least the past three years.
2. Minimum **overall GPA\*** of 3.30, inclusive of all coursework taken.
3. Minimum **pre-engineering GPA\*** of 3.30, inclusive of all pre-engineering science and mathematics prerequisite coursework.
4. A minimum grade of B (GPA of 3.0) must be obtained on the first attempt for each pre-engineering science and mathematics prerequisite course.
5. Successful completion of both the foundational and major-specific prerequisite coursework for your intended major (as listed below) by the end of the spring semester of application.
6. Successful completion of the major and degree coursework prescribed by QC by the end of the spring semester of application.
7. Three favorable recommendation letters: one each from the Combined Plan liaison, a science instructor and a math instructor at QC.
8. Demonstration of English language proficiency (as listed below).

\*The overall GPA will be calculated by Columbia using all postsecondary courses for which a student has received credit on the QC transcript.

\*\*The pre-engineering GPA will be calculated by Columbia using all of the prerequisite coursework listed below, with the exception of the courses fulfilling the lab requirement and humanities and social science requirements.

*Applicants who do not meet the above criteria are welcome to apply as part of our competitive review process, where admission is not guaranteed.*

All prerequisite coursework must appear on the QC transcript. **Columbia requires all official transcripts, and the liaison must approve all coursework not taken at QC.**

**Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other standardized exams for placement** will be accepted as fulfillment of prerequisite coursework as long as the course credit appears on the QC transcript and is approved by the liaison.

All prerequisite coursework **must be completed by the spring semester of application** to qualify for guaranteed admission. As indicated in the list below, some courses are excluded from this requirement and can be taken once at Columbia.

**Noteworthy dates & deadlines:**

- **Early December:** Application available online
- **Mid-February:** Deadline to submit application materials
- **Early March:** Deadline to submit financial aid materials
- **April:** Admissions decisions are released to candidates

Students should consult <http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/apply/combined-plan> (and the *Pre-Combined Plan Curriculum Guide*) for further information on the Program. The website also contains information on:

- English proficiency requirements;
- Financial aid policies;
- Housing at Columbia.

## Prerequisite coursework

### FOUNDATION COURSES REQUIRED OF ALL MAJORS:

#### MATHEMATICS

- Calculus sequence (Math 151, 152, 201, 202); (alternative: Math 141, 142, 143, 201, 202)

#### PHYSICS

- Mechanics and Thermodynamics (Phys 145.4)
- Electricity, Magnetism and Optics (Phys 146.4)

#### CHEMISTRY

- General Chemistry I (Chem 113.4)

#### PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY LAB [choose one of the following]

- Physics Lab I (Phys 145.1)
- Physics Lab II (Phys 146.1)
- Chemistry Lab (Chem 113.1)

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Introduction to computer science and programming (CSCI 111) [Students interested in majors requiring Java later can take CSCI 212 in addition to CSCI 111.]

#### HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Principles of Economics (ECON 101).
- English Composition (ENGL 110).
- 27 non-technical credit hours required, including courses that fulfill Economics and English Composition. *Non-technical requirement is satisfied by the course work taken for the bachelor's degree awarded by the home institution. Also, the writing requirements for QC should be met.*

### **MAJOR-SPECIFIC COURSEWORK REQUIRED:**

In addition to the above courses required for all engineering majors, the following are a list of additional courses that are required for specific engineering programs along with the QC course numbers.

### **APPLIED MATHEMATICS OR APPLIED PHYSICS**

#### **MATHEMATICS**

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233)

#### **PHYSICS**

- Classical and Quantum Waves (Phys 260)
- Physics Lab (Phys 235)

CHEMISTRY/BIOLOGY [choose one of the following. Chemistry/Biology labs are not required.]

- General Chemistry I (Chem 113.4)
- Physiology and Cell Biology (Biol 105)

### **BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

#### **MATHEMATICS**

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237).

#### **PHYSICS**

- Classical and Quantum Waves (Phys 260)

#### **CHEMISTRY**

- General Chemistry II (Chem 114.4)
- General Chemistry Lab (Chem 114.1)

#### **BIOLOGY**

- Introduction to biology I (Biol 105)
- Introduction to biology II (Biol 106)

#### **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

- Introduction to Electrical Engineering [this course is not offered at QC but may be taken while at Columbia (the course at Columbia: ELEN 1201).]

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

- Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Python required

### **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

#### **MATHEMATICS**

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237)

#### **PHYSICS**

- Physics Lab (Phys 235)

## CHEMISTRY

- General Chemistry II (Chem 114.4)
- General Chemistry Lab (Chem 114.1)
- Organic Chemistry I (Chem 251.4)
- Organic Chemistry Lab (Chem 251.1) [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: CHEM UN2943).]

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Python required

## **CIVIL ENGINEERING**

### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237)

## GEOLOGY

- Earth: Origin, Evolution, Processes Future (Geol 101)

## ENGINEERING MECHANICS

- Mechanics (Phys 237) [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: ENME E3105).]

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Introduction to MATLAB Programming required

## **COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237).
- Discrete Math (Math 220)

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Java (CSCI 212)

## ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- Introduction to Electrical Engineering [this course is not offered at QC but may be taken while at Columbia (the course at Columbia: ELEN 1201).]

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### MATHEMATICS

- Discrete Math (Math 220)

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Java (CSCI 212)
- Data Structures (CSCI 313) [pre-requisites: CSCI 211, 212, and 220]

## **EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237).

PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: W3600).]

- Introduction to Probability and Statistics (Math 241)
- Methods of Mathematical Statistics (Math 242)

#### CHEMISTRY

- General Chemistry II (Chem 114.4)
- General Chemistry Lab (Chem 114.1)

ADDITIONAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE [choose one of the following]

- Organic Chemistry (Chem 251.4)
- Classical and Quantum Waves (PHYS 260)
- Physiology and Cell Biology (Biol 105)

ADDITIONAL COURSES [all to be taken at Columbia.]

- The Climate System (the course at Columbia: EESC UN2100) or The Solid Earth System (the course at Columbia: EESC UN2200)
- A Better Planet By Design (the course at Columbia: EAEE E2100)

#### **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

##### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237)

##### PHYSICS

- Classical and Quantum Waves (Phys 260)

##### COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Object-oriented programming (CSCI 211)
- Object-oriented programming (CSCI 212)
- Discrete Structures (CSCI 220)

##### ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- Introduction to Electrical Engineering [this course is not offered at QC but may be taken while at Columbia (the course at Columbia: ELEN 1201).]

#### **ENGINEERING MECHANICS**

##### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233)

##### ENGINEERING MECHANICS

- Mechanics (Phys 237) [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: ENME E3105).]

#### **IEOR: INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS OR OPERATIONS RESEARCH**

##### MATHEMATICS

- Linear Algebra (MATH 231/237)
- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233) [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: MATH UN2030).] *This course must be taken prior to Columbia for any student with interests in the Financial Engineering major.*

*Students cannot apply to this major until they are already enrolled at Columbia (after the first semester in Columbia Engineering).*

#### PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

- Introduction to Probability and Statistics (Math 241)
- Methods of Mathematical Statistics (Math 242)
- Statistical Inference (Math 633)

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Object-oriented Programming in Java (CSCI 212)
- Data Structures (CSCI 313) [this course has CSCI 211, CSCI 212 and CSCI 220 as prerequisites.]

#### ECONOMICS

- Introduction to Accounting and Finance (Acct 100) [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: E2261).] *This course must be taken prior to Columbia for any student with interests in the Financial Engineering major. Students cannot apply to this major until they are already enrolled at Columbia (after the first semester in Columbia Engineering).*

#### **MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

##### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231/237)

##### PHYSICS

- Classical and Quantum Waves (Phys 260)

##### CHEMISTRY

- General Chemistry II (Chem 114.4)
- General Chemistry Lab (Chem 114.1)

#### **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

##### MATHEMATICS

- Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 223 or Phys 233)
- Linear Algebra (Math 231).

##### PHYSICS/BIOLOGY [choose one of the following]

- Classical and Quantum Waves (Phys 260)
- Physiology and Cell Biology (Biol 105)

##### ENGINEERING MECHANICS

- Mechanics (Phys 237) [may be taken the summer before entering or while at Columbia (the equivalent course at Columbia: ENME E3105).]

##### ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- Introduction to Electrical Engineering [this course is not offered at QC but may be taken while at Columbia (the course at Columbia: ELEN 1201).]