The civil engineering program allows students to discover which area or areas of civil engineering is right for them by emphasizing learning beyond the classroom. For example, the Kentucky Transportation Center, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s research and training arm, provides research opportunities for students focused on transportation, structural, construction and geotechnical engineering and the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute provides research opportunities and summer internships for students focused on water resources and environmental engineering.
Pursuing Civil Engineering at UK

Students interested in the broad field of civil engineering learn to be effective members of teams and implement interdisciplinary solutions to technical and socioeconomic problems in an increasingly complex world. Major areas include construction engineering and project management, environmental engineering, geotechnical engineering, materials engineering, structural engineering, transportation engineering and water resources engineering. Our faculty and curriculum will go beyond preparing you to meet the requirements of today's employers and tomorrow's careers.

Career Prospects in Civil Engineering

Civil engineers are employed by the construction industry, engineering and architectural firms, utility companies, energy companies, telecommunications businesses, manufacturing companies, consulting firms, railroads and state and federal governmental agencies.

Undergraduate Research in Civil Engineering

Undergraduate students have participated in geotechnical engineering and structures research, transportation research, water resources and environmental engineering research and more. Several students have helped develop CatStrong, a lightweight carbon fiber product that has been used to repair several Kentucky bridges with impressive results.

Civil Engineering Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in civil engineering. As part of the civil engineering curriculum, students must complete the pre-engineering requirements, major requirements and general education coursework, called UK Core.

Note: This sample represents one of several paths to a College of Engineering degree. Consult the departmental website for details on specific paths.

Freshman Year

Engineering Exploration I and II 3
Fundamentals of Engineering Computing 2
Calculus I and II 8
Composition & Communication I and II 6
Chemistry I and Physics I and Lab 9
UK Core Course 3
Total hours 31

Sophomore Year

Surveying 4
Chemistry II 3
Statics 3
Calculus III and IV 7
Physics II and Lab 5
Computer Graphics and Comm. 3
Deformable Solids and Lab 4
Engineering Statistics 3
Total hours 32

Junior Year

Technical Writing 3
Principles of Physical Geology 4
Intro to Construction Engineering 3
Intro to Fluid Mechanics 4
Civil Engineering Materials 3
Transportation Engineering 3
Intro to Environmental Engineering 3
Structural Analysis 3
Engineering Science Elective 3
Math or Science Elective 3
Total hours 32

Senior Year

Water Resources Engineering 4
Soil Mechanics 4
Structures Elective 3
Design Electives 6
Civil Engineering Seminar 1
Systems Design 3
Technical Elective 3
UK Core Courses 9
Total hours 33

The University of Kentucky's civil engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, www.abet.org.

Revised August 2018. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the UK College of Engineering, visit www.engr.uky.edu.

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