Questions and Answers

Thanks to everyone who came to the Dean’s Forum, sponsored by the Mizzou Engineering Student Council, in November 2023. Below are responses to questions students submitted during the event.

Q: Where can students find a list of resources available at Mizzou Engineering?
A: The best source for this information is our website, where you can find information about academics, student services, research and more. Moving forward, we will consider dedicating a College of Engineering resource account specifically for student questions.

Q: What is the College doing to create a more inclusive environment?
A: We are committed to inclusivity, diversity and equity. We have several IDE initiatives including:
- IDE Faculty Fellows who work directly with students
- The Multicultural Engineering Program, which provides support and events
- First-Year Engineering and Peer Mentoring to support incoming students
- An Inclusivity Center
- An IDE Alumni Advisory Council made up of alumni leaders who represent diverse backgrounds and experiences
Other programs are under consideration.

Q: Does the College have any plans for new degrees?
A: We recently received UM Board of Curator approval for three new degrees: A B.S. in Environmental Engineering; a B.S. in Engineering Technology; and a B.S. in Data Science. These will launch in 2024. There are no plans for additional degrees at this time, nor are we changing existing programs.

Q: How do I learn more about graduate programs at Mizzou Engineering?
A: Explore master’s degrees and Ph.D. programs on the College website here. We also host a Research Open House each fall during which you can talk to current graduate students and the Directors of Graduate Studies. You may also reach out to askengineering@missouri.edu with specific questions or contact Stephanie Chauvin or, for online programs, Stephanie Jerger in our recruitment office. Learn more about the MU Graduate School here.

Q: What are our job placement rates and starting salaries, and how do those compare to other engineering schools?
A: 95.3% of 2022 graduates reported a successful career outcome within six months of graduation with a median starting salary of $70,000. Our Career Services team regularly compares our outcome rates and starting salaries
against peer institutions, and our students have comparable outcomes. Most variation is the result of industry and geographic location.

Q: With new tiered tuition at Mizzou, what is the College doing to support and improve engineering education?
A: We continually strive to keep programs and facilities up-to-date and relevant. Recently, we established new labs including the Jost Chemical Company Chemical Engineering Unit Operations Lab and a Manufacturing Lab, with an Industry 4.0 lab currently under development. We’ve hired more faculty members. We created the First-Year Engineering Program with a peer mentorship component. We’ve renovated space. And we’ve developed three new degrees.

Who are the advisors for each department? Do advisors meet with Directors of Undergraduate Studies?
A: Advisors and their contact information are listed on our website here. Advisors are:

- Undeclared – Nick Balser
- Biological, Biomedical and Chemical Engineering – Priyanka Chaudhary (A-L), Amy Bruer (M-Z)
- Civil Engineering – Caroline Harmon
- Computer Science – Rusty Elder (A-K), Amanda James (L-Z)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering – Tami Beatty
- Engineering and Information Technology – Robin Posey
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering – Justin Rich (A-K), William Nelsen (L-Z)

Each advisor meets regularly with contacts in their respective departments, including the Directors of Undergraduate Studies (DUGS). We will follow up to make sure all advisors are meeting directly with DUGS. We will also make sure DUGS, as well as Directors of Graduate Studies, have access to degree audits.

Q: How do we find out information on which electives are being offered?
A: We are encouraging all departments to host an electives forum to discuss electives and get student feedback regarding interests in existing or new courses.

Q: Are there plans to change ENGR 1000 and 1050, especially for sophomores and juniors?
A: ENGR 1000 and 1050 are designed to help freshmen navigate engineering coursework and career options. Based on feedback from freshmen, these courses are helping introduce first-year students to our programs and resources. We are in the process of evaluating alternative courses for transfer students.

Q: If I receive credit for an internship, do I still have to pay tuition?
A: Yes. Credit hour costs are based on the university’s tuition model.

Q: Are there plans to add faculty and staff positions?
A: As part of the MizzouForward initiative, Mizzou Engineering has plans to hire 50 new faculty members and 25 new staff members over the coming five years. We continue to evaluate where these positions are most needed in accordance to our strategic plans and goals.

Q: How does the College encourage student involvement?
A: We know that student involvement is key to a holistic engineering education. That’s why our current strategic plan includes goals to increase student participation in internships and co-ops to 75% and participation in study abroad to 25%. Existing efforts include:
- Continuing to grow and expand Career Fair and related events and activities each semester
- Encouraging student involvement through Peer Mentoring
- An Undergraduate Research Fellowship of $1,500 to encourage participation in research
- Financially supporting student organizations

Q: What are the processes around student org funding in the College? Are we really the only academic unit that awards funding to student organizations?
A: We have a funding proposal process in place that will continue to be evaluated and refined. Currently, all student organizations receive a call for proposals, a rubric of what to include in the proposal and an FAQ document. Student organizations then submit proposals, which are reviewed by a committee consisting of impartial faculty, staff and a student reviewer. With scores from the committee and limited available funding, the College determines allocations based on the strength of the proposal, actual costs of activities and alignment with the College’s mission. We ask faculty/staff reviewers to provide feedback to each organization regarding their proposal.

The amount of funding available to distribute among student organizations depends on the budget set by campus-level officials. This past year, we had a total of $160,000 to award to organizations that submitted proposals. This would be the same amount of money available to all organizations, regardless of whether organizations were to be grouped by type.

We believe engineering is the only academic unit that provides university funding to support student organizations but are working to verify this information. Other colleges may support student organizations through donations, rather than with university funds.

Q: What are the policies around student organization funding, such as deductions and reimbursements?
The College of Engineering awards student organizations funding for a single fiscal year. The University of Missouri has a policy of deducting 10% of funds remaining in an operating account at the end of each fiscal year. Funds received from sources outside of the College—such as activity fees, money for supporting the Career Fair, etc.—is held in project accounts, which carry over from one fiscal year to the next after 10% is deducted. Gift funds are not subject to 10% deduction and carry over through fiscal years.

We offer biannual training to student organizations that apply for College funding, and the training is updated regularly. Questions about Mizzou Engineering funding may be directed to ECS@missouri.edu. ORG also provides training and resources (all questions regarding ORG funding should be directed to ORG staff).

Q: Are there plans to help student orgs with travel costs in the future?
A: The College will continue to fund travel expenses proposed by student organizations through the annual funding opportunity. The College is working with student organizations and donors to find additional funds.

Q: Why is there a 5% fee on Give Direct donations?
A: A fee of 5% is charged to all donations given to the University of Missouri. These fees are consistent with standard practices and are used to support advancement operations. These fees help cover the cost of administering and processing gifts, ensuring funds are properly processed and distributed.

Q: What do we do if technology malfunctions in a classroom or lab?
A: Email Aaron Saucier, director of faculties, or report a technical issue to the Division of IT at Mizzou.