Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Environmental Science

Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering

Civil engineering is the oldest engineering program at KU. The University's first graduating class of four students in 1873 included a civil engineer. Civil engineers design roads, water systems, bridges, dams, and the other infrastructure needed by modern society. Today, civil engineers were the first engineers to address environmental issues and are the lead engineering discipline in treating water supplies to protect public health. In recognition of the significant issues concerning the environment, the department name was changed in 1992 to civil and environmental engineering. In 2001, architectural engineering merged with CEE to form the current Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering Department (CEAE).

Mission

CEAE’s mission is to provide students with an outstanding engineering education and be a leader in research and service. This mission is supported by the following 3 goals:

1. Prepare students for productive engineering careers.
2. Maintain and grow strong research programs.
3. Serve the profession.

Graduate Admission

The department admits for all semesters. Students may pursue degrees full or part time. An ABET-accredited baccalaureate degree in engineering is required for admission to the Ph.D. degree programs in civil engineering and environmental engineering. Applicants are expected to have undergraduate grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale for regular admission. Graduate Record Examination scores are required and are used in the evaluation process, but minimum scores for admission have not been established. The GRE engineering and other subject examinations are not required. The Test of English as a Foreign Language is required for international applicants. Applicants should take the GRE and TOEFL examinations as early as possible to expedite the admission process.

Graduate applications should be submitted online (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/).
Ph.D. Degree Requirements

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree must satisfy the University's general requirements for the degree. A Plan of Study must be approved by the student's major professor, examining committee, and departmental graduate studies committee.

An aspirant for the Ph.D. degree must pass a qualifying examination. The department normally gives this examination upon completion of the aspirant's M.S. work or at a comparable level for non-M.S. students.

Before being admitted to the comprehensive examination, the aspirant must satisfy the research skill, residency, and responsible scholarship requirements for the degree. The research skill requirement provides the aspirant with a research skill distinct from, but strongly supportive of, the dissertation research. One research skill is required. Possible research skills include foreign language, computer science, mathematics, statistics, specific laboratory skills, and specific skills in the physical or biological sciences. The foreign language skill can be obtained by taking a 2-course sequence in the selected language or demonstrated by passing an examination. The selected research skill must be listed on the Plan of Study form. A separate statement attached to the Plan of Study must list the work to be completed to obtain the research skill. The responsible scholarship requirement serves to ensure that students are trained in responsible research practices and is fulfilled by attending a Responsible Scholarship Training Seminar offered each fall semester.

All graduate students must have an approved Plan of Study (https://gradplan.engr.ku.edu/accounts/login/?next=/) on file by the beginning of their second semester of study.