MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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Mechanical engineering is among the most diversified of the traditional engineering disciplines. The mechanical engineer builds machines to extend our physical and mental capabilities and to convert traditional and novel energy sources into useful forms.

The role of the mechanical engineer has changed dramatically over the past few decades with the extensive use of high-performance computers (such as in computational fluid dynamics, materials design, control, and manufacturing), the interfacing of microelectromechanical systems and actuators via microprocessors to build high-precision sensors and devices, and the advent of advanced materials (e.g., composites, shape-memory alloys, ceramics, and superconductors) for new applications (e.g., coatings, biomaterials, and computer storage). These areas offer mechanical engineering students special opportunities for creativity, demanding that they learn not only in depth but also in breadth. Demands for increased energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact—as might be realized, for example, in novel gas turbine or electric hybrid vehicles—require that students understand the fundamentals of mechanics, thermodynamics, fluid mechanics, combustion, and materials science. In all these tasks, the utmost consideration of the modern mechanical engineer is improving the quality of human life. The engineer must also be constantly aware both of the finiteness of Earth’s resources and its environment and of the burden that engineering places on them.

The educational mission of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science is to provide an excellent education that will prepare students to become members of the next generation of mechanical engineers. To implement this mission, the department adheres to the following set of educational objectives: to provide a balanced technical and nontechnical education to enable graduates to enter highly selective graduate schools and/or to pursue technical careers in industry or government laboratories; to enable graduates to improve and adapt their skills to accommodate rapid technological changes; to prepare graduates to communicate effectively and to understand the ethical responsibilities and impact on society of their profession. To achieve these objectives, the following fundamental educational goals have been established for the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science: to provide a comprehensive introduction to basic science and mathematics, which form the foundation of mechanical engineering; to provide thorough training in analytical and experimental methods and in data analysis, including problem formulation; to provide instruction in the fundamentals of the design process, including project innovation, synthesis, and management, both individually and in a team setting; to provide both a technical and a nontechnical program of study in which oral and written communication skills are developed; and to instill in students an understanding of their professional and ethical responsibilities, which affect society and their profession.

COURSES FOR NONMAJORS

Mechanics and mechanical engineering content can be found in several courses intended for those not majoring in science. See under Engineering and Applied Science.

THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

At Yale, three mechanical engineering programs are offered: a B.S. degree program with a major in Mechanical Engineering, a B.S. degree program with a major in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical), and a B.A. degree program with a major in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical). Prospective majors in both B.S. programs are advised to complete introductory physics and mathematics through calculus (MATH 115) by the end of their first year.

A student’s undergraduate engineering program may include one or more special project courses (MENG 471, 472, 473, or 474), in which the student pursues a particular research interest through design-oriented projects and experimental investigations. Projects may be initiated by the student, may be performed in a team, or may be derived from the ideas of faculty members who place undergraduates in their ongoing research projects. All interested students should contact the director of undergraduate studies for more information on special project courses.

B.S. degree program in Mechanical Engineering This is the most technically intensive mechanical engineering degree program and is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc. This program is appropriate for students who plan careers as practicing engineers in industry, consulting firms, or government as well as for students who are considering a career in research and plan to pursue an advanced degree in engineering.

B.S. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) This non-ABET degree program is suitable for students who wish to gain significant expertise within mechanical engineering while combining their engineering studies with related disciplines. For example, a number of students have taken courses in architecture while pursuing a program in mechanical engineering that emphasizes structural mechanics; similarly, a student with an interest in computer graphics might combine engineering courses in computer-aided design with programming courses from the Department of Computer Science.

B.A. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) In a society with increasing levels of technical sophistication, a well-rounded individual must have some background in science and technology. The non-ABET B.A. program is designed for students who may be planning careers in business, law, economics, medicine, journalism, or politics but need to understand the impact that science and technology can have on society at large. An understanding of engineering methods and practices, combined with a traditional liberal
arts education, provides a strong background for a variety of careers. The program is well suited for students who wish to fulfill the requirements of two majors.

The major for all three degree programs requires a group of prerequisites or equivalents; several courses beyond the prerequisites; and a senior requirement, as indicated below.

PREREQUISITES

B.S. degree program in Mechanical Engineering The prerequisites in mathematics are MATH 112, 115, and ENAS 151, or the equivalent. The basic science prerequisites are PHYS 180, 181, or 200, 201; one laboratory from PHYS 165L or 205L, and one from PHYS 166L or 206L, or equivalents.

B.S. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) The prerequisites in mathematics are MATH 112, 115, and ENAS 151, or the equivalent. The basic science prerequisites are PHYS 180, 181, or 200, 201; one laboratory from PHYS 165L or 205L, and one from PHYS 166L, 206L, or MENG 286L.

B.A. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) The prerequisites in mathematics are MATH 112 and 115. The basic science prerequisite is physics at least to the level of PHYS 170, 171.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

B.S. degree program in Mechanical Engineering

The major for the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020 With DUS approval, the following changes to the requirements of the major may be fulfilled by students who declared their major under previous requirements.

The major for the Class of 2021 and subsequent classes requires 21 courses and 19.5 credits beyond the prerequisites as follows:

1. Advanced mathematics: ENAS 194 and MATH 222 or 225
2. Mechanical engineering and related: MENG 185, 211, 280, 285, 286L, MENG 325, 361, 363L, 383, 389, 390, MENG 487L and MENG 488L (the senior requirement), ENAS 130, EENG 200, and at least one lecture course in chemistry numbered CHEM 161 or higher
3. Technical electives: three approved technical electives chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies; only one course from MENG 471, 472, 473, and 474 may be counted as one of the three technical electives

The curriculum in this program is arranged in prescribed patterns, but some departures from it are possible with approval of the DUS.

B.S. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) The major requires twelve approved term courses in engineering, beyond the prerequisites and including the senior project, which can cover a broad array of topics within the subject provided that they contribute to a coherent program. Students should consult with the DUS at the beginning of their sophomore year.

B.A. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) The program requires eight approved term courses beyond the prerequisites, including the senior project. Students should consult with the DUS at the beginning of their sophomore year.

Credit/D/Fail No courses taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the Mechanical Engineering major, including prerequisites.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

B.S. degree program in Mechanical Engineering

The major for the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020 With DUS approval, the following change to the senior requirement may be fulfilled by students who declared their major under previous requirements.

The major for the Class of 2021 and subsequent classes MENG 487L (half-credit) and MENG 488L (half-credit) taken in the senior year fulfill the senior requirement.

B.S. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) Students satisfy the senior project requirement by completing MENG 404; 471, 472, 473, or 474; 487L and 488L; 489; or another upper-level design course (taken during the senior year) chosen in consultation with the DUS.

B.A. degree program in Engineering Sciences (Mechanical) Students satisfy the senior project requirement by completing MENG 471, 472, 473, or 474; or another upper-level design course (taken during their senior year) chosen in consultation with the DUS.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, B.S.

Prerequisites MATH 112, 115, and ENAS 151, or equivalent; PHYS 180, 181, or 200, 201, and 2 labs (1 from PHYS 165L or 205L, and 1 from PHYS 166L or 206L, or equivalents)

Number of courses 21 term courses beyond prerequisites (including senior req)

Specific courses required ENAS 130 and 194; EENG 200; MATH 222 or 225; MENG 185, 211, 280, 285, 286L, MENG 325, 361, 363L, 383, 389, 390
Manufacturing processes for mechanical systems, including low-volume processes such as machining to high-volume processes such as manufacturing. "Principles to be taken into account in the product development process. Students learn the basics of common commercial actuators such as DC motors.

MENG 325a, Machine Elements and Manufacturing Processes: * Machine elements refer one or more of a range of common design elements that transmit power and enable smooth and efficient motion in mechanical systems with moving parts. This course introduces the most common of these elements and gives students the tools to design with them. Topics include common linkages, gearing, bearings, springs, clutches, brakes, and common actuators such as DC motors. Manufacturing processes are necessary for the mechanical design engineer to effectively perform her or his duties; they provide an understanding of how the parts and systems that they design are fabricated, allowing “Design for Manufacturing” principles to be taken into account in the product development process. Students learn the basics of common commercial manufacturing processes for mechanical systems, including low-volume processes such as machining to high-volume processes such as
course is of interest to students studying thin-film growth, surface coatings, mechanical and chemical properties of surfaces, so the forces between atoms and molecules. Part two generalizes these concepts to surface forces. Part three then gives a variety of examples. The course provides an in-depth discussion of intermolecular and surface forces, which determine the mechanical and chemical properties of surfaces. In the first part, we discuss the fundamental principles and concepts of modern materials science often exploits the fact that atoms located at surfaces or in thin layers behave differently from bulk atoms to achieve new or greatly altered material properties. The course provides hands-on experience in applying the principles of fluid mechanics and thermodynamics. Integration of experiment, theory, and simulation to reflect real-world phenomena. Students design and test prototype devices. Prerequisites: MENG 211 and 361. WR, SC, RP

MENG 365b, Chemical Propulsion Systems Alessandro Gomez Study of chemical propulsion systems. Topics include review of propulsion fundamentals; concepts of compressible fluid flow; development and application of relations for Fanno and Rayleigh flows; normal and oblique shock systems to various propulsion system components; engine performance characteristics; fundamentals of turbomachinery; liquid and solid rocket system components and performance. MENG 361 or permission of instructor. QR, SC, RP

MENG 383b, Mechanical Engineering III: Dynamics Corey O’Hern Kinematics and dynamics of particles and systems of particles. Relative motion; systems with constraints. Rigid body mechanics; gyroscopes. Prerequisites: PHYS 180 or 200, and MATH 120 or ENAS 151. QR, SC, RP

MENG 389b, Mechanical Engineering IV: Fluid and Thermal Energy Science Juan Fernández de la Mora Fundamentals of mechanical engineering applicable to the calculation of energy and power requirements, as well as transport of heat by conduction, convection, and radiation. Prerequisites: MENG 211, 361, and ENAS 194; or permission of instructor. QR, SC, RP

MENG 390b, Mechatronics Laboratory Madhusudhan Venkadesan Hands-on synthesis of control systems, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering. Review of Laplace transforms, transfer functions, software tools for solving ODEs. Review of electronic components and introduction to electronic instrumentation. Introduction to sensors; mechanical power transmission elements; programming microcontrollers; PID control. Prerequisites: ENAS 194 or equivalent, ENAS 130, and EENG 200; or permission of instructor. QR, RP

MENG 400b or b, Computer-Aided Engineering Marshall Long Aspects of computer-aided design and manufacture (CAD/CAM). The computer’s role in the mechanical design and manufacturing process; commercial tools for two- and three-dimensional drafting and assembly modeling; finite-element analysis software for modeling mechanical, thermal, and fluid systems. Prerequisite: ENAS 130 or permission of instructor. QR

MENG 403a, Introduction to Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology Jeeyoung Cha Survey of nanomaterial synthesis methods and current nanotechnologies. Approaches to synthesizing nanomaterials; characterization techniques; device applications that involve nanoscale effects. Prerequisites: ENAS 194 and MENG 285, or permission of instructor. SC

MENG 440a / ENAS 440a, Applied Numerical Methods for Algebraic Systems, Eigensystems, and Function Approximation Beth Anne Bennett The derivation, analysis, and implementation of various numerical methods. Topics include root-finding methods, numerical solution of systems of linear and nonlinear equations, eigenvalue/eigenvector approximation, polynomial-based interpolation, and numerical integration. Additional topics such as computational cost, error analysis, and convergence are studied in several contexts throughout the course. Prerequisites: MATH 115, and 222 or 225, or equivalents; ENAS 130 or some experience with Matlab, C++, or Fortran programming. QR

MENG 450b / APHY 450b / ENAS 450b, Advanced Synchrotron Techniques and Electron Spectroscopy of Materials Charles Ahn Introduction to concepts of advanced x-ray and electron-based techniques used for understanding the electronic, structural, and chemical behavior of materials. Students learn from world-leading experts on fundamentals and practical applications of various diffraction, spectroscopy, and microscopy methods. Course highlights the use of synchrotrons in practical experiments. Prerequisites: physics and quantum mechanics/physical chemistry courses for physical science and engineering majors, or by permission of instructor. QR, SC

MENG 459a / BENG 459a, Neuromuscular Biomechanics Madhusudhan Venkadesan Mechanics and control of animal movement, including skeletal muscle mechanics, systems-level neural and sensory physiology, elements of feedback control, and optimal control. Deriving equations of motion for multibody mechanical systems that are actuated by muscles or muscle-like motors; incorporating sensory feedback; analyzing system properties such as stability and energetics. Prerequisites: MENG 383 and MATH 222 or equivalents, and familiarity with MATLAB or a similar scientific computing environment. QR, RP

MENG 464b, Forces on the Nanoscale Udo Schwarz Modern materials science often exploits the fact that atoms located at surfaces or in thin layers behave differently from bulk atoms to achieve new or greatly altered material properties. The course provides an in-depth discussion of intermolecular and surface forces, which determine the mechanical and chemical properties of surfaces. In the first part, we discuss the fundamental principles and concepts of forces between atoms and molecules. Part two generalizes these concepts to surface forces. Part three then gives a variety of examples. The course is of interest to students studying thin-film growth, surface coatings, mechanical and chemical properties of surfaces, soft matter
including biomembranes, and colloidal suspensions. Some knowledge of basic physics, mathematics, chemistry, and thermodynamics is expected.  

* MENG 469a, Aerodynamics  Juan Fernández de la Mora  
Review of fluid dynamics. Inviscid flows over airfoils; finite wing theory; viscous effects and boundary layer theory. Compressible aerodynamics: normal and oblique shock waves and expansion waves. Linearized compressible flows. Prerequisite: MENG 361 or permission of instructor.  Q, SC  

* MENG 471a and MENG 472b, Special Projects I  Joran Booth  
Faculty-supervised one- or two-person projects with emphasis on research (experiment, simulation, or theory), engineering design, or tutorial study. Students are expected to consult the course instructor, director of undergraduate studies, and/or appropriate faculty members to discuss ideas and suggestions for topics. Focus on development of professional skills such as writing abstracts, prospectuses, and technical reports as well as good practices for preparing posters and delivering presentations. Permission of adviser and director of undergraduate studies is required.  

* MENG 473a and MENG 474b, Special Projects II  Joran Booth  
Faculty-supervised one- or two-person projects with emphasis on research (experiment, simulation, or theory), engineering design, or tutorial study. Students are expected to consult the course instructor, director of undergraduate studies, and/or appropriate faculty members to discuss ideas and suggestions for topics. These courses may be taken at any time during the student’s career and may be taken more than once. Prerequisites: MENG 471 or 472; permission of adviser and director of undergraduate studies.  

MENG 487La / MENG 488Lb, Mechanical Design: Process and Implementation I  Aaron Dollar and Joran Booth  
This course is the first half of the capstone design sequence (students take MENG 488 in the spring semester of the same academic year) and is a unique opportunity to apply and demonstrate broad and detailed knowledge of engineering in a team effort to design, construct, and test a functioning engineering system. The lecture portion of the class provides guidance in planning and managing your project, as well other topics associated with engineering design. This course sequence requires quality design; analyses and experiments to support the design effort; and the fabrication and testing of the engineered system; as well as proper documentation and presentation of results to a technical audience. Prerequisites: MENG 280 and MENG 361. MENG 185 and MENG 325 are strongly suggested.  ½ Course cr  

MENG 488Lb / MENG 487La, Mechanical Design: Process and Implementation II  Joran Booth  
This course is the second half of the capstone design sequence (students take MENG 487 in the fall semester of the same academic year) and is a unique opportunity to apply and demonstrate broad and detailed knowledge of engineering in a team effort to design, construct, and test a functioning engineering system. The lecture portion of the class provides guidance in planning and managing your project, as well other topics associated with engineering design. This course sequence requires quality design; analyses and experiments to support the design effort; and the fabrication and testing of the engineered system; as well as proper documentation and presentation of results to a technical audience. Prerequisites: MENG 487, MENG 280, and MENG 361. MENG 185 and MENG 325 are strongly suggested.  ½ Course cr  

MENG 489a, Mechanical Design: Process and Implementation  Staff  
Study of the design process, including concept generation, project management, teamwork, detail design, and communication skills. Student teams implement a real-world design project with hardware objectives that can be achieved in a term, and a problem definition that allows room for creative solutions. Prerequisite: MENG 280, 361, or permission of instructor.  SC  RP