COE DIRECT-ADMIT TRANSFER STUDENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is General Engineering and how is it different from other VT engineering majors?
   All students admitted to the College of Engineering through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions are admitted to General Engineering. This major is part of the first-year program, students cannot graduate with a General Engineering major. Once specific change of major requirements are met, students will apply to a degree-granting engineering major (e.g. Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, etc.).

2. What is changing for COE transfer students?
   In previous years, COE transfer students would be in General Engineering until they completed all of the change of major requirements, and they would apply to a degree-granting major. Applications were reviewed based on a student’s overall VT GPA. COE transfer students admitted to the 2021-2022 academic year will be placed directly into the specific engineering major they listed on their admissions application, with the exception of Biomedical Engineering (see FAQ 7).

3. As a new COE transfer student admitted to the 2021-2022 academic year, what are the requirements to remain in my degree-granting major?
   You will need to complete the specific change of major courses (Item 1) by the end of your first semester (fall or spring). You will also need to adhere to your declared major’s satisfactory progress towards degree, located on page 2 of the graduation requirements.

4. Do I have to earn a certain VT GPA to remain in my degree-granting engineering major?
   No, there is no minimum GPA required to remain in your degree-granting engineering major as long as the change of major courses are completed in your first semester (fall or spring). You will need to adhere to your declared major’s satisfactory progress towards degree, located on page 2 of the graduation requirements.

5. Do I have to complete a specific number of VT GPA hours?
   No, there is no minimum number of GPA hours required to remain in your degree-granting engineering major as long as the change of major courses are completed in your first semester (fall or spring).

6. What if I am not able to complete the engineering change of major coursework in my first fall or spring semester?
   Your major will be changed to General Engineering and you may be prevented from taking additional in-major courses. You will then need to apply to change your major once you meet all of the change of major policies outlined on the "How to Declare an Engineering Major" document, including the course requirements, minimum GPA, and minimum GPA hours.

7. What if I want to pursue Biomedical Engineering?
   Biomedical Engineering (BME) requires a selection process that includes an application, essay, and interview. This process will be held in early June for any new COE transfer student that indicated BME on their application of admission. If you are not admitted, follow the instructions in FAQ 8.

8. What if I want to pursue an engineering major that is different from what I listed on my admissions application?
   Requests to change your major from the major you listed on your admissions application should be submitted to Natasha Smith (noliver@vt.edu) by the last day to add classes of your first fall or spring semester (see the Academic Calendar for the specific date). Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and is dependent on space availability in the new major you are requesting.

9. What if I want to change my engineering major after the last day to add classes?
   You will need to follow the steps on the "How to Declare an Engineering Major" document, including the course requirements, minimum GPA, and minimum GPA hours.