

Engineering Technology

Department of Engineering Technology, College of Business and Technology



Program of Study

The WIU Department of Engineering Technology (ET), accredited by the Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE), provides an up-to-date and challenging program in response to continuously changing and sophisticated technology and an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Students are prepared for careers in areas such as quality auditing, continuous improvement, production management, cost estimating, scheduling and a variety of technical fields. Course content combines a unique blend of theory, principles and concepts with know-how, practical application and problem-solving skills, which ensure that students are prepared to work in an enterprise environment. Laboratories support contemporary design, prototyping and production software, plus industrial equipment, including CNC machining centers and material testing devices. No prior experience with engineering technology principles or software is required upon enrollment.

Special Opportunities

A key component of the major is a required internship. Every student in his or her junior/senior year earns course credit for successfully applying knowledge while gaining invaluable on-the-job experience. By securing an internship in any approved major-related field, each student has the opportunity to enhance his or her skills in a professional work environment of particular interest. Many students report that the internship experience helps them focus their career goals and make vital industry contacts that benefit them upon graduation. Industry site supervisors continually report that the required internship is a vital link between education and the world of business, industry and government service.

There are many ways to benefit from a baccalaureate degree in engineering technology:

- 91+ percent placement
- Applications oriented (hands-on)
- Small student-faculty ratio
- Small class sizes
- Diverse faculty
- Certification opportunities
- Higher salaries
- Develop ability to work in teams
- Required internship (industry experience)

GradTrac is available to ET students. Western Illinois University guarantees new freshmen that if they meet GradTrac requirements they will graduate in four years or the remaining tuition will be free. During the four years, progress will be monitored by a professional advisor, which will simplify course scheduling. This program is free. The only responsibility is to meet the requirements of the GradTrac agreement. Regularly admitted freshmen are eligible to apply for GradTrac. See the program advisor to participate, and check the WIU Undergraduate Catalog for more details.

Student Activities

Students enrolled in the WIU Department of Engineering Technology are encouraged to become members of diverse groups and societies, including the Illinois State Academy of Sciences or the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Students travel to, and participate in, competitions at regional/national conferences, attend field trips and host professionals who provide insight into their selected fields.

Honors in Engineering Technology

Engineering technology students who have high academic standing at WIU are invited to join Epsilon Pi Tau, the honorary for the Professions in Technology with over 20,000 initiated members worldwide.

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honor Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

Student Success

The mean GPA for undergraduate students at WIU is 2.979. The mean GPA for graduates in engineering technology is 2.865.

After College

Placement of engineering technology majors is greater than 91 percent. A 2011 survey of graduates from the previous 10 years indicated that the average starting salary was greater than \$45,000. Current salaries for these graduates with up to 10 years of experience are approaching an average of \$60,000. Nearly 60 to 75 percent of graduates have been promoted, and nearly 60 percent were hired by the company where they served as interns. An average salary for initial engineering services positions is \$60,000.

WIU's Career Development Center (CDC) is committed to helping students transition smoothly into successful careers by providing résumé assistance, mock interview sessions and preparatory seminars. Additionally, several networking and career fairs are held each year, and an extensive Leatherneck Link database is provided for students in all class levels. For more information, contact the CDC at (309) 298-1838 or visit wiu.edu/careers.

Faculty

The faculty members of the WIU Department of Engineering Technology received their academic preparation from noted universities. Their academic groundwork, combined with industry experience, provide them with the insight and competencies to develop and oversee diverse, integrated programs of study. Faculty members have been involved in Department of Defense research projects, renewable energy, sustainability, packaging and building information modeling.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Numerous scholarships and financial aid options are available. For information about scholarships, contact the Scholarship office at (309) 298-2001 or visit wiu.edu/Scholarship. Additionally, the College of Business and Technology and the Department of Engineering Technology have many scholarship opportunities available. For application information, please visit wiu.edu/cbt, wiu.edu/engrtech, or contact the department office at (309) 298-1091. For details about financial aid, contact the Financial Aid office at (309) 298-2446 or visit wiu.edu/fa.

Visit WIU & Enroll Today

WIU offers daylong Discover Western programs, which allow prospective students and their families to tour campus, attend information sessions and meet with faculty, staff, and advisors. For information about admission or Discover Western programs, contact the Admissions Office at (309) 298-3157 or toll-free at (877) PICK-WIU (742-5948), or visit wiu.edu/admissions.

For More Information

To learn more about our programs, call the Department of Engineering Technology at (309) 298-1091, visit us in Knoblauch Hall 135, or go to wiu.edu/engrtech. To speak with an advisor about the engineering technology major, call (309) 298-2100 or stop by Knoblauch Hall 110 to schedule an appointment.

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