

**Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Industrial Engineering  
 Request for SACSCOC Program Closure Approval**

The Department of Industrial Engineering is one of the seven degree granting departments within the J.B. Speed School of Engineering. The program curriculum of the Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Industrial Engineering degree program is highly duplicative with the Master of Science (M.S.) in Industrial Engineering degree program. The primary differentiator are the admissions requirements with the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering being designed for individuals holding a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Industrial Engineering, and the M.S. in Industrial Engineering being open to students with a baccalaureate degree in a related discipline (e.g., math, physics, etc.). The industrial engineering faculty within the J.B. Speed School of Engineering have established concentrations within the M.S. in Industrial Engineering to provide different pathways within the same degree program based upon a student’s prior educational experiences. Through consolidating the duplicative degree programs while offering two different concentrations within the M.S. degree program, which is to remain extant, the industrial engineering faculty believe they will offer the same student access while minimizing inefficiencies and redundancies within the department.

The proposed closure of the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering attained the following approvals:

- Departmental / Faculty Level Approval:
  - Industrial Engineering Curriculum Committee approved on May 4, 2022
- Academic-Unit Level Approval:
  - J.B. Speed School of Engineering Graduate Education Committee approved on September 12, 2022
  - J.B. Speed School of Engineering Academic Plans and Policies Committee discussed on September 13, 2022. No concerns were raised.

**I. Enrollment and Degree Conferrals**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Enrollment<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Degree Conferrals</b>
2017-2018	8	4
2018-2019	11	10
2019-2020	9	8
2020-2021	12	7
2021-2022	3	4
2022-2023	3	1 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The fall term is UofL’s official reporting semester for enrollment data.

<sup>2</sup> Degrees awarded through Summer 2022.

## **II. Students:**

The M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering is designed to be completed within twelve months (i.e., three successive academic semesters inclusive of the summer semester), so only the three students currently enrolled in the program during the Fall 2022 semester will be affected by the program closure. The students currently enrolled in the program will be permitted to complete the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering program if they prefer to do so, but they will also be given the choice to convert to the M.S. in Industrial Engineering program. Students who are enrolled in the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering program will have through the Fall 2024 term to complete the degree program in compliance with the UofL Graduate School's "satisfactory progress" and "continuous enrollment" policies. As a program intended to take twelve-months to complete, any students who cannot finish within two years would be out of compliance with the above stated policies, and they would have to reapply for admission according to the published UofL Graduate School Catalog.

## **III. Notification of Faculty & Staff**

The proposed program closure has no impact on faculty. All Department of Industrial Engineering faculty will maintain full instructional loads. The faculty will continue to teach M.S. in Industrial Engineering courses, and they anticipate enrollment in the M.S. degree program increasing by the number of students who would have previously enrolled in the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering program.

The faculty are aware of the program closure, as they initially approved it on May 4, 2022. However, the Associate Dean of the J.B. Speed School of Engineering will also notify the Department of Industrial Engineering faculty once SACSCOC approves the teach-out plan. Furthermore, the Vice Provost/SACSCOC Liaison will notify all relevant parties (e.g., registrar, graduate school, advisers, academic deans, etc.) of the program closure after SACSCOC approval is granted, and the academic catalog will be updated to reflect the closure.

## **IV. Student Communication Plan**

Current students will be notified of their option to transfer to the M.S. in Industrial Engineering program from the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering program via email from their advisor and the Associate Dean of the J.B. Speed School of Engineering. Students enrolled by Fall 2022 will also be advised they may remain in the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering program, but they will need to complete the program by no later than the Fall 2024 term to be awarded the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering credential. Finally, information will be changed on all applicable websites and recruiting materials, and the J.B. Speed School of Engineering graduate program recruiters will be notified via email as well.

## **V. Effective Date**

The last term students will be admitted to the M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering program is the fall 2022 term. The program will be closed to subsequent enrollment effective for the Spring 2023 term (January 9, 2023).