

Questions Posed by the PPPRC and Their Answers

- While the committee recognizes that such a certificate would provide students with a needed skillset and a credential to show their qualification to potential employers, it is concerned that the certificate would not bring in new revenue since the target audience is students already enrolled in the BSCE program. Why not make this a track instead of a certificate?

There are three options to include a construction component under Civil.

Option 1 is this certificate program that we proposed.

Option 2 is to consider Construction as a track under Civil. However, the ABET program criteria for Civil Engineering requires minimum two faculty members under each track.

Although we are optimistic in the long-term development and growth of the department, in short term, we do not see the possibility of being given 2 new faculty lines considering the current budget situation at UofL.

Option 3 is to start a new degree program in Construction. Normally a degree program in Construction would be accredited under ACCE, which is completely different from ABET. It requires way more faculty lines and resources.

By considering all abovementioned options, CEE faculty unanimously proposed this certificate program to benefit our students. Even though it may not bring huge revenue, it does not cost any expenses either. The two 500 courses listed under this program are both in our MS curriculum. Therefore, hiring adjunct for this certificate program does not create any additional financial cost to the department.

- Elsewhere in the LOI it suggests that you expect to attract a couple of “visiting students” enrolled in similar degree or associate degree programs each year, but this is not clear in the section on admissions requirements. Please clarify in the admissions section that the program is open to students enrolled in degree programs elsewhere.

The program will be open to visiting students as long as they meet the prerequisite requirements. These requirements are listed under section II Admission Requirements in LOI. These prerequisites are fundamental engineering courses, lots of students in JCTC or other schools meet these requirements.

- You mention that option 3 below (a new degree program) would require many more faculty lines. How many?

A typical ACCE accredited degree program has 5-8 full-time faculty members, plus a couple of adjuncts. These 5-8 will all be new faculty lines, as none of the Civil faculty has a degree in Construction. Not only faculty, it will also need space, facilities, etc.

- How many students do you expect to matriculate from the proposed certificate program to the MEng program?

Typically about 1/3 of BSCE students choose to move on to MEng program. We hope that this certificate program will help us to attract more BSCE students to the MEng program, as these students will only need to take 8 more courses (24 credit hours) instead of 10 (30 credit hours). With this certificate program, we hope to grow our MEng student population from 1/3 to 1/2 of the BSCE students. That means this program can potentially matriculate 2-8 more MEng students each year, which will be very helpful to student retention and will also generate more tuition revenue.

- What is the projected \$23,832 in tuition revenue based on? Is this tuition revenue generated by this program or by the increased enrollment in the MEng program? Are the

projected enrollments for this program for certificate-only students? As you note, students already enrolled in the BSCE program will not be generating additional revenue. We understand that there will be no additional tuition revenue from the BSCE program. The projected tuition revenue is based on 2 parts:

- (1) Part-time students outside CEE: we estimate on 2 part-time students (12 credit hours per student)
- (2) Full-time students: we estimate that 8 full-time BSCE students will be enrolled in the certificate program, among these 8, we conservatively estimate that 2 of them would move on to MEng program. These 2 MEng students matriculated from the certificate program would bring additional 48 credit hours of MEng tuition revenue (24 credit hours per student). The proposed certificate program may actually matriculate more students to the MEng program (see the answer to the previous).

The Speed School gets \$331 per credit hour of tuition. $\$331 \times (24 + 48) = \$23,832$.

It is worth to emphasize that this certificate program does not have any additional/potential cost to the department, because all the proposed courses are already in the curricula of our BSCE and MSCE programs.