TEACH-OUT PLAN

SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison
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Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Chemical Engineering
Program Closure

The Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Chemical Engineering is a 31-credit hour program within the Department of Chemical Engineering in the J.B. Speed School of Engineering. The program has experienced declining enrollment for the past five (5) academic years with an 85% decrease from Fall 2019 to Fall 2024. The decline in the enrollment of the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree program began in 2010 when the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Chemical Engineering became ABET accredited. To become a licensed chemical engineer in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, an individual must have at least one ABET accredited chemical engineering degree at the baccalaureate level or higher. Prior to the B.S. in Chemical Engineering option that was ABET accredited at UofL, the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering had a natural pipeline of students who needed to hold an ABET accredited degree to be a licensed engineer.

Conversely, the Master of Science (M.S.) in Chemical Engineering, which is not ABET accredited, has experienced stable enrollments with modest growth since Fall 2019. The M.S. program has five (5) students enrolled during the Fall 2024 term. By eliminating the M.Eng. degree option, the Department of Chemical Engineering can prioritize the M.S. degree as their only master's degree option to stabilize and continue its modest growth trajectory. The closure of the M.Eng. to concentrate upon the M.S. was supported by an alumni survey of chemical engineering graduates with 184 respondents that was conducted in August 2023. 84% of the respondents agreed that the M.Eng. degree should be eliminated.

Commensurate with the J.B. Speed School of Engineering By-Laws, the proposed closure of the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering has attained the following approvals:

1. The Department of Chemical Engineering faculty approved the closure on February 27, 2023.
2. The J.B. Speed School of Engineering Graduate Education Committee approved the closure on December 5, 2024.
3. The J.B. Speed School of Engineering Academic Policies and Procedures Committee approved the closure on January 21, 2025.

I. Enrollment and Degree Conferrals

Academic Year	Enrollment[1]	Degree Conferrals
2019-2020	20	15
2020-2021	23	3
2021-2022	13	10
2022-2023	8	1
2023-2024	7	4
2024-2025	3	N/A
[1] The fall term is UofL's official reporting semester for enrollment data.		

II. Students

As of the Spring 2025 semester, the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree program only has two (2) students currently enrolled. The two students are on track to complete their theses by July 2025. The students will be permitted to complete the M.Eng. degree program through the Fall 2025 semester if necessary. After that date, the students will be transitioned to the M.S. in Chemical Engineering degree program if they are still enrolled.

III. Notification of Faculty, Staff, and Community

The affected faculty are aware of the program closure, as they initially approved it on February 27, 2023. The faculty and leadership within the J.B. Speed School of Engineering are also aware of the proposed closure, as they have approved the action through their unit processes. The courses required for the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree are also required for the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, so the closure of the M.Eng. degree program is not anticipated to have any impact upon faculty teaching loads or necessitate faculty to be redeployed.

Once the program is officially closed with SACSCOC, the Vice Provost/SACSCOC Liaison will notify all relevant parties (e.g., registrar, graduate school, advisers, academic deans, etc.) of the program closure via email, and the academic catalog will be updated to reflect the program closure. Specifically, the program will be removed from the Graduate Academic Catalog for the 2025-2026 academic year. Finally, the Department Chair of Chemical Engineering will email all alumni and community partners (e.g., Community-Based Learning partners, employers, etc.) involved with the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree to notify them of the closure and the prioritization of the M.S. in Chemical Engineering degree program.

IV. Current, Lapsed, and Prospective Student Communication Plan

The M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree currently has no applicants for the 2025-2026 academic year, so no communication is necessary for this population. The degree program will simply be removed from the graduate application. The two (2) students currently enrolled are already aware that the program is proposed for closure given previous communications with the students. The Department Chair of Chemical Engineering

will send a formal notice via email to notify the students that they have through the Fall 2025 term to complete their M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree program and that if they are not finished at that time, they will be transferred to the M.S. in Chemical Engineering degree program. Finally, no students with lapsed enrollment in the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree program are eligible to re-enroll into the program under the continuous enrollment policy in the Graduate Academic Catalog. The continuous enrollment policy requires students to reapply for admission under the Graduate Academic Catalog in place at the time of reapplication if they have not been enrolled for more than two academic years.

V. Effective Date

The last term students will be admitted to the M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering degree is the Spring 2025 semester. (Note: no students have applied for admission at the time of submission of the teach-out plan.) The program will be closed to subsequent enrollment effective for the Summer 2025 term (May 5, 2025).