

Frequently Asked Questions

Exceptions, substitutions and variations from published curricula are inevitable in students' programs of study. The following answers are provided to explain policies on typical questions about departures from published curricula for AGEN and BSEN in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*. Departures are authorized by the Department of Biological Systems Engineering Curriculum Committee.

On AP/Co-Enrolled Courses

Question: *I've got AP credit and college credit from a course I took in high school. Will those be accepted by the medical schools?*

Answer: If those credits are for mathematics or science courses, probably not! You should take the next higher math or science course to be sure the medical schools will accept your transcript.

On Chemistry

Question: *May I substitute CHEM 109 and 110 for CHEM 113 and 114?*

Answer: Yes, but realize that 109+110 is an 8-credit sequence with two labs while 113+114 is 7-credits with only one lab. Pre-med students need a two lab sequence, thus must add CHEM 116 (2 cr) if they take the 113+114 sequence.

Question: *If I take CHEM 113, can I follow up with CHEM 110 instead of CHEM 114?*

Answer: Yes, but it can be an awkward transition because 113 ends at a slightly different point in content than does 110.

Question: *Both CHEM 251/253 and CHEM 261/263 are listed. How do I choose, or does it matter?*

Answer: There is a difference! CHEM 261/263 is designed to follow CHEM 113/114. This sequence is oriented to Chemistry majors; CHME's take 261/263. The 251/253 sequence follows 109/110 and is oriented to the biological sciences, agriculture, and pre-med.

Question: *I heard there is a new organic chemistry course called CHEM 255. May I substitute it for CHEM 251?*

Answer: You may, but if you are in the Pre-Med track you will want to take the CHEM 251/253 252/254 sequence. CHEM 255 is one-semester series targeted at preparing you for BIOC 321 and would be a good course for those in the Environmental and Water Resources emphasis area, and for those not contemplating medical school.

Question: *I took CHEM 191H (and 192H) upon invitation from the Chemistry Department. Will either of these courses count toward my engineering degree?*

Answer: No, neither will count.

On Biological Sciences & Biochemistry

Question: *Will BIOS 203 (Ethics) count as a BIOS elective?*

Answer: No.

On ACE and Communications Substitutions

Question: *I think I've figured out a way to double-count an ACE course as an ACE SLO 6 course, and as an ACE SLO 9 course. This would really open up my program for other courses! Is this acceptable?*

Answer: No. Double-counting ACE courses is not acceptable at UNL.

Question: *I took a course at a community college in another state one summer that seems to be very similar to an ACE-certified UNL course. Is there any way I can determine if the course can count towards my ACE course requirements?*

Answer: Consult with your advisor and take a look at the "ACE Policy for transfer students" site found through its link on <http://unlcms.unl.edu/general-education/achievement-centered-general-education/transfers.shtml>.

Question: *Can I satisfy my ACE requirements in ways other than taking courses?*

Answer: Yes. The ACE program allows for students to meet their ACE requirements through courses, co-curricular experiences, or study abroad. To explore how co-curricular experiences may be used, check out the details on <http://ace.unl.edu/ace-co-curricular-study-abroad>

Question: *MNGT 361 sounds like a good ACE and Organizational Skills elective. Is it?*

Answer: No, it has not been ACE-certified, nor does it satisfy the Organizational Skills requirement of AGEN or BSEN.

Question: *I took the Chancellor's Leadership Class (ALEC 153) for credit. Can I use it as an ACE elective?*

Answer: No, ALEC 153 is not ACE-certified. However, it will count in AGEN and BSEN for their Organizational Skills requirement.

On Engineering Classes

Question: *Do all transfer students have to take AGEN/BSEN 100?*

Answer: That depends! If you had an equivalent introductory engineering course such as MECH 100, CIVE 112 or CHME 113, those courses will substitute for AGEN/BSEN 100. If you have no background in engineering, whether you take 100 depends on a joint decision by your adviser and you.

Question: *I have an equivalent course to Computer Science 150 or 155A – 155T from another college or university. Will it count as a substitute for AGEN/BSEN 112?*

Answer: Perhaps. The AGEN/BSEN program relies on MATLAB which is taught in AGEN/BSEN 112 and 212a. Thus, this decision is made on a case-by-case basis, depending on how familiar you are with MATLAB.

Question: *Are there any courses that will not be allowed for credit toward my engineering degree?*

Answer: Yes, for example GEOG 150 and 155, ASCI 100 and 150, NUTR 100, 170 and 171, AGRO 101, AGRI 103, ALEC 134, and FDST 101 and 131 will not be allowed, and there may be others. When in doubt always check with your adviser.

Question: *If I took MATH 198 EXCEL as a 1 credit course, can this hour be used toward my degree?*

Answer: No.

Question: *Can I substitute MSYM 245 or ELEC 215 for ELEC 211?*

Answer: You can substitute ELEC 215 but not MSYM 245. Be aware that ELEC 215 is oriented to digital computer and instrument electronics and does not include the analog circuit material covered in 211 that is on the FE exam.

Question: *Students in other colleges get academic credit for internships and coop experiences. Is this possible in our majors?*

Answer: Rarely. Other colleges have fewer accreditation rules than engineering. Thus, we are very careful about quality control of academic credit for your engineering degree. Coop students do sign up for academic credit, but only to meet insurance and scholarship requirements, and to maintain full-time student status while away from UNL. Academic credit for internships and coop experiences in other colleges, industry, or government, is generally not counted for graduation purposes for BSEN or AGEN degrees. Rare exceptions are made with prior approval and substantiation of academic rigor and acceptability. A contract form is available for such exceptions.

On the Honors Program and Graduation with Distinction

Question: *The BSEN and AGEN curricula do not list many honors courses. So how do I fill my Honors Program requirements?*

Answer: Instructors teaching 100, 200, 300, and 400-level courses that don't show an honors section in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* will generally "contract" to create an honors section for anyone needing honors credit. Please ask the instructor about this ahead of time.

Question: *Do I have to do an Honors Thesis (499H) to fulfill the Honors Program requirements?*

Answer: No, you can do an Honors Design Project (480H) instead. But, it is very, very important to consult your adviser and the AGEN/BSEN 480 instructor for details if you are considering this option. This is because 480H and 499H are treated differently in your degree audit and senior check. Also, the expectations for 480H students are considerably greater than for the regular 480 students. Planning for 480H must be initiated at the beginning of AGEN/BSEN 470. Planning for AGEN/BSEN 499H should be started in your junior year.

Question: *Is graduating with "Distinction" different than graduating in the Honors Program?*

Answer: Yes, it is very different! You do not have to be in the Honors Program to graduate with "Distinction." You can graduate with either "Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction." The top 6 percent (~>3.90 gpa) of the College of Engineering senior class may graduate with "Distinction." The top 2 percent (~>3.98) can graduate with "High or Highest Distinction." The difference between "High and Highest" depending on whether you have published a technical paper, done an honors thesis, or completed an honor project. Several other accomplishments could also qualify you for Highest Distinction. An application is necessary. See your adviser for details.

Question: *Can I take Honors classes if I am not in the Honors Program?*

Answer: Yes, if you have an invitation and have met the criteria for the honors class (e.g. MATH 107H, PHYS 211H). Exceptions are the 189H and 395H seminars which are open only to Honors Program students.