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Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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Overview

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is a broad field encompassing such diverse subject areas as computer systems, distributed computing, computer networks, control, electronics, photonics, digital systems, circuits (analog, digital, mixed-mode, and power electronics), communications, signal processing, electromagnetics, and physics of semiconductor devices. Knowledge of the mathematical and natural sciences is applied to the theory, design, and implementation of devices and systems for the benefit of society. The Department offers three undergraduate degrees: Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, as well as Computer Science and Engineering. Computer Science and Engineering is offered in conjunction with the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences; information is available in the [Interdisciplinary Studies section](#) of the *Catalogue*.

Some electrical engineers focus on the study of electronic devices and circuits that are the basic building blocks of complex electronic systems. Others study power electronics and the generation, transmission, and utilization of electrical energy. A large group of electrical engineers studies the application of these complex systems to other areas, including medicine, biology, geology, and ecology. Still another group studies complex electronic systems such as automatic controls, telecommunications, wireless communications, and signal processing.

Computer engineers are trained in various fields of computer science and engineering. They engage in the design and analysis of digital computers and networks, including software and hardware. Computer design includes topics such as computer architecture, VLSI circuits, computer graphics, design automation, system software, data structures and algorithms, distributed computing, and computer networks. Computer Engineering courses include programming in high-level languages such as Python, C++ and Java; use of software packages for analysis and design; design of system software such as operating systems; design of hardware/software interfaces and embedded systems;

and application of computers in solving engineering problems. Laboratories in both hardware and software experiences are integrated within the Computer Engineering curriculum.

The undergraduate curriculum in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering provides a solid foundation for future career growth, enabling graduates' careers to grow technically, administratively, or both. Many electrical and computer engineers will begin work in a large organizational environment as members of an engineering team, obtaining career satisfaction from solving meaningful problems that contribute to the success of the organization's overall goal. As their careers mature, technical growth most naturally results from the acquisition of an advanced degree and further development of the basic thought processes instilled in the undergraduate years. Administrative growth can result from the development of management skills on the job and/or through advanced degree programs in management.

Graduates of Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science and Engineering will find a variety of career opportunities in areas including wireless communication, voice and video coding, biomedical electronics, circuit design, optical devices and communication, semiconductor devices and fabrication, power systems, power electronics, computer hardware and software design, computer networks, design of computer-based control systems, application software, data storage and retrieval, computer graphics, pattern recognition, computer modeling, parallel computing, and operating systems.

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