



Program Objectives

San Diego State University B.S. program in Civil Engineering students face a program that is exciting, challenging, flexible and diversified. It is often called the “people serving profession”. Because the engineer's work is predominantly intellectual and varied and not of a routine mental or physical character, the SDSU program places emphasis upon the mastery of a strong core of subject matter in the physical sciences, mathematics, and the engineering sciences.

Woven through the pattern is a continuing study of the social sciences and humanities, because engineering graduates must expect to find their best expression as leaders, conscious of the social and economic implications of their decisions.

Teaching Methodology

The objective of the program is to give the students knowledge of civil engineering, as well as the interdisciplinary background and skills to meaningfully participate in and contribute technical advances toward this profession. The undergraduate program builds upon concepts of mathematics, physics, chemistry and basic engineering with specialized study in civil engineering. The program integrates technical aspects with studies in the social sciences and humanities to ensure appropriate sensitivity to socially related problems. Engineering design is emphasized, particularly in conjunction with computer utilization and practical engineering problems. Aspects of safety and engineering ethics are woven throughout the program.

All students are required to participate in a “capstone design” course that emphasizes teamwork, consideration of economic and social factors, oral and written communication and creative thinking.

Career Opportunities

Virtually all that surrounds us, buildings, highways, dams, harbors, airports, bridges and tunnels, pipelines and water systems are designed and constructed by civil engineers. Thus, there are excellent job opportunities in any foreseeable future. Career opportunities in all specialties are bright, and perhaps the best exist in environmental and transportation areas. For instance, new transportation technologies that use “smart highways” and “smart cars” will revolutionize our ways of combating the increasing traffic in our cities. Both the private and public sectors will be looking for a new generation of well-prepared civil engineers.

The department maintains close links with industry through its Advisory Board to assure that our programs remain relevant and meet industry needs. These links also help to develop internship programs for our students.



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