

How to Enter the Civil Department as a VCCS Transfer Student

Technical Description

What is Civil Engineering? Civil Engineering is the design, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure and its surrounding environment. This form of professional engineering has eight specialty areas, construction, environmental, geotechnical, land development, materials, structures, transportation, and water resources. As a community college student in the state of Virginia attempting to pursue this study at Virginia Tech, many questions arise as to how such a goal can be accomplished. There are several key steps that will be outlined in order to understand the process to make achieving this goal a reality. In order to accomplish this task, you will need to have acquired an Associates in Science from a ABET accredited institution in Virginia. ABET is defined as Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. We will outline the application process from the VCCS, Virginia Community College System, to acceptance into the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. A common mistake among transfer students is assuming that the transfer process is from VCCS to the Civil Department, however, it is actually from VCCS to the School of General Engineering at Virginia Tech. This is because Virginia Tech needs for all incoming transfer students to establish their GPA, grade point average, of 12 credit hours instead of using the accumulated GPA from your community college. As a reminder, at any point during this entire process, you can email the Virginia Tech faculty member about any questions or concerns about the transfer process. After you have established your GPA, you can apply to the Civil Engineering Department at the end of the semester.

For a community college student thinking about transferring to Virginia Tech's Civil and Environmental Engineering department, there are some key steps to follow. You will need to complete an Associate's Degree in Science from a VCCS, apply to the school of General Engineering, and then apply to the Civil Department. Without taking either of these actions, it won't be possible for you to gain entry into a career of Civil Engineering.

Glossary

- Transfer Student – a student moving from one institution to another, along with any credits accumulated.
- General Engineering – a topic of study that consists of a broad category of different engineering professions
- Civil and Environmental Engineering – a professional engineering study that undertakes the design, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure and its surrounding environment
- Cumulative GPA – points assigned to specific letter grades that range from A to F and have been weighted to the number of credit hours the letter grade is worth. Ranges on a 4.0 scale

- CEE Application – a form that allows a student to apply and gain entry into the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Virginia Tech
- ABET Accreditation – Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology is a non-profit and non-governmental accrediting agency for academic programs and provides quality standards universities must adhere to
- Tentative Schedule – a schedule that may change in the course of time

Instructions

The following instructions outline how a VCCS transfer Student can successfully transfer from their current community college to Virginia Tech's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. As stated below, if any concern or questions arise you can speak to the Virginia Tech faculty members responsible for undergraduate admissions or refer to the Virginia Tech website. The only items you will need for this is a computer with access to the internet, a printer, and a pencil.

STEP 1:

- Acquire Associates in Science from a ABET accredited institution from the state of Virginia with a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for a guaranteed acceptance.

STEP 2:

- Apply to Virginia Tech's School of General Engineering. From this point your major of study will be General Engineering. For this application process the following will be needed:
 - A non-refundable application fee of \$60
 - Current college transcript
 - High school transcripts
 - Final college transcript.
- The application process can either be done online or by paper. If done by paper, mail the application to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, which can be found on Virginia Tech's Website.

STEP 3:

- Once accepted into the School of General Engineering, you will receive an email and a packet of information that outlines what steps need to be taken in terms of clerical work, e.g. forms that need to be filled out, sign up for orientation.
 - (You should have a tentative schedule at the end of orientation).

STEP 4:

- Complete the semester with a 3.0 cumulative GPA or above, then apply for the Civil Department by taking a brief survey when it becomes available after the end of the semester.
 - If you have completed the semester with a 3.0 GPA or above consisting of at least 12 credit hours, you should have a guaranteed acceptance. If anything happens outside of these parameters, consult an advisor in the applied department. The following website to use for contacting advisors:
 - <http://www.cce.vt.edu/index.html>

STEP 5:

- Make an appointment with your Civil Department advisor and plan your schedule for the following semesters to ensure on-time graduation with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering.
 - During these semesters, you must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or better to complete this degree.