Dual Degree Engineering Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
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Answers:

1. What is the Dual Degree Engineering program?
The Dual Degree Engineering program is a cooperative agreement between Hendrix College and a small number of colleges that offer ABET-accredited engineering programs. The program is sometimes also called "combined degree" or "3/2." The student begins at Hendrix College, and completes most or all of the graduation requirements for a B.A. During the last year at Hendrix, the student applies to the engineering school for the Dual Degree program. If accepted, the student then attends the engineering school for two or three years, completing the requirements for a BS (2 years) and MS (3 years) in engineering.

2. What should I do in high school to be prepared for entry into the Hendrix Dual Degree Engineering program?
The most important preparation for a high school student who wishes to apply for the engineering program is a solid foundation in mathematics. The student must be ready to take Calculus I during their first semester at Hendrix in order to complete most of the majors that will prepare the student for an engineering program in three years. It is also

desirable if the student has received one or more AP credits to apply toward course credit at Hendrix.

3. What engineering schools are available?
Two engineering schools currently have cooperative agreements with Hendrix College. They are:

Columbia University in New York City, NY
https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/learn/academiclife/engineering/combined-plan-program

Washington University in St. Louis in St. Louis, MO (aka WashU)
https://engineering.wustl.edu/academics/dual-degree-program/

4. What are the options for timing, and what degrees are available?
The Combined Plan program at Columbia University will result in a BA from Hendrix and a BS in engineering from Columbia. Students may stay at Hendrix for three or four years before spending two years at Columbia. Students may apply for the Columbia master's degree program once they are enrolled at Columbia, but that is not part of the dual degree program.

Beginning in 2026, the dual degree program at Washington University at St. Louis will require three years at WashU, resulting in a BA from Hendrix, and a BS and MS from WashU. Prior to the 2026 entering class, students had the option to stop at the BS in engineering after two years, but that option is being phased out. Students may apply to Washu's Dual Degree program in the third or fourth year at Hendrix.

Engineering school	**Years at Hendrix**	**Years at Eng. school**	**Degrees awarded**
Columbia	3	2	BA from Hdx, BS from CU
Columbia	4	2	BA from Hdx, BS from CU
WashU	3	3	BA from Hdx, BS and MS from WashU
WashU	4	3	BA from Hdx, BS and MS from WashU

5. Three or four years at Hendrix?
It is possible for a student to complete their degree at Hendrix College in three years if they arrive at Hendrix knowing that they want to pursue this program, and if they are ready to complete the calculus sequence in their freshman year.

Most dual degree students choose to stay at Hendrix for four years before proceeding to the engineering school so that they may take full advantage of their time at Hendrix. They may decide to add a second major or a minor, or study abroad. Students who decide to pursue the dual degree program starting in their sophomore year will need four years to

complete all requirements. Student athletes often wish to stay at Hendrix for four years so that they can play their sport in their senior year.

Both Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis offers the option of starting the engineering program after four years at Hendrix. There are significant financial aid consequences to this option, so please seek advice from the Hendrix pre-engineering liaison.

6. What are the benefits of doing the Dual Degree Engineering program?
Academic: The time at Hendrix provides the academic foundation for the engineering study. By taking the foundation courses in math, physics, computer science, and chemistry at Hendrix College, the student receives the benefit of small class sizes (10-30 students per class at Hendrix vs. 100-500 students per class at the engineering schools) and individual attention from the dedicated faculty at Hendrix College. The student also receives an excellent, well-rounded liberal arts education. Hendrix students have the opportunity to participate in the Hendrix Odyssey Program. The engineering schools provide an ABET-accredited engineering degree, research, and internship opportunities in engineering which prepares the future engineer for industry or government work. The Hendrix liberal arts experience combined with the technology-focused education at the engineering schools provides the very best benefits of both types of schools.

Competitive Admissions: The engineering schools in our cooperative agreement have excellent engineering programs, and are highly competitive for admission into their programs. Each year, these schools reserve a small number of seats for students from Hendrix and other schools like us across the nation. The quality of student applications for these spots is extremely high, but the probability of receiving admission through the Dual Degree program is much higher than the probability of receiving admission into the engineering program as a freshman.

Financial: Hendrix College is consistently ranked as one of the "best buys" for undergraduate education in the United States. The 2024 tuition costs (before financial aid):

School	Tuition per year
Hendrix	$38,200
Columbia	$71,170
WUSTL	$64,500

At Hendrix College, 100% of students receive some form of tuition assistance. Also, the cost of living is far less in Conway than it is in New York City and St. Louis. Financial aid is also available at the engineering schools. WashU guarantees a minimum 50% tuition discount, and Columbia uses a need-based model for financial aid.

7. What types of engineering are available?
There are many traditional types of engineering, including: mechanical, electrical, chemical, and computer. In addition, there are a variety of other types of engineering

offered at the schools such as civil, systems, aeronautical, environmental, biomedical, and industrial engineering. Each school offers different types of engineering degrees. For the most complete and correct lists, please visit the links given in the answer to question #2 to see which engineering programs are offered by each partner school.

8. What classes do I need to take at Hendrix?
Each engineering school has a list of classes that must be completed at Hendrix before admission to the Dual Degree engineering program. The list of classes is dependent on the type of engineering. Please see the links to each school for the most current list of classes.

For both schools, students will need the following Hendrix courses: Calculus I and II, Differential Equations, Multivariable Calculus, Foundations of Computer Science, General Physics I and II, and General Chemistry I. Other classes may be required, depending on the school and type of engineering selected.

Please note that there is a minimum gpa (3.3/4.0 for Columbia and 3.25/4.0 for WashU) for application to the engineering schools. Also, no courses with a grade below C will transfer.

9. What major should I choose at Hendrix?
Students may choose any Hendrix major. However, the wise student will choose a major that best prepares them for the engineering coursework and skills. For example, a person interested in civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering will typically major in physics. A person interested in chemical or biochemical engineering might major in chemistry, chemical physics, or biochemistry-molecular biology. A person interested in computer engineering should major in computer science. Some students will craft their own interdisciplinary major that really focuses the courses for preparation in the engineering curiculum. The courses required for each major offered at Hendrix can be found in the Hendrix Catalog at http://www.hendrix.edu/catalog/

10. How do I apply to the engineering school?
During the final year at Hendrix, students will apply to one or more of the engineering schools for admission into their Dual Degree program. Each school has its admissions forms and applications available on their website. Students should schedule regular advising meetings with the Hendrix engineering liaison during each year at Hendrix to receive help in this process.

11. What financial aid is available?
Financial aid packages provided by Hendrix College provide assistance while the student is studying at Hendrix and do not continue while the student is at the engineering school. Outside scholarships may or may not apply to the engineering school tuition, depending on the details and requirements of each scholarship. Each engineering school offers its own financial aid packages, and it is the student's responsibility to apply for these programs at the time of application to the program at each school. Details for each school:

Columbia University
http://cc-seas.financialaid.columbia.edu/

Washington University at St. Louis
https://engineering.washu.edu/academics/dual-degree-program/application.html

12. How many Hendrix students enter the Dual Degree Engineering program?
Hendrix typically sends 3-5 students per year to our Dual Degree engineering partner schools.

13. Can I do engineering without doing the Dual Degree program?
Yes! You do not need to have a bachelor's degree in engineering to apply to an engineering graduate program. Hendrix physics and chemical physics majors have had very good success in admission and successful completion of graduate engineering degrees. Alumni have reported that they felt very prepared for their engineering courses in graduate school. The biggest advantage of completing a B.S. in engineering before graduate school is that a B.S. in an ABET-accredited school is needed if the student wants to take the Professional Engineer (PE) exam. This credential is most important for engineers who plan to work on government contracts or who plan to open their own engineering firm.

14. How do I get more information?
Hendrix freshmen should talk with their academic advisor about their desire to pursue the Dual Degree program and also request a meeting with the Hendrix engineering liaison, Dr. Ann Wright. Questions from prospective students can be answered by your Hendrix admissions counselor and by Dr. Wright by e-mailing wright@hendrix.edu.