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Message from the Head of Department

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering, to welcome all new and returning students to study at UC in 2025. I am sure that the year ahead will challenge you, frustrate you, inspire you, stretch you, and ultimately educate you. Learning is a very personal process and it is the aim of our staff to provide you with the resources, opportunities, information and guidance to develop your own talents and skills. You can rest assured that we cannot do the learning for you, and nor would we want to.

Your study towards a degree in Civil Engineering is not about the piece of paper that we present to you at the end of your studies. Instead what really matters is how you develop your technical knowledge, your appreciation of professional issues, your creativity in design and your ability to communicate your ideas to others. I would recommend that you view your study at university as primarily about personal growth and development.

By the time you graduate we expect that you will have developed into a professional engineer, just waiting to join the workforce in whatever capacity you desire. Your technical skills will be highly developed, but it is your personal skills and attributes that are likely to lead to successful and satisfying career.

Our department has a long history, producing graduate engineers for over a century. You will be part of that tradition. New Zealand engineering graduates, and UC civil engineering graduates in particular, are highly sought after both within New Zealand and overseas. The job opportunities within New Zealand are certainly plentiful, and this is likely to continue because of the challenges associated with population growth and a changing climate. However, I suspect many of you will be seeking opportunities to expand your horizons overseas either during your studies or when you complete them.

Our department has developed a flourishing exchange programme whereby students with a good academic record can choose to undertake a one semester exchange programme of study at a leading university overseas in the first semester of their fourth year. We have developed formal links with a number of institutions in North America, Asia, Europe and the UK that facilitate such an overseas study experience. Think about whether this might be something that sparks your interest and, if so, start planning about it well ahead of time.

In many professions there are barriers to the recognition of qualifications elsewhere and this prevents opportunities to work in other countries. All New Zealand engineering degrees are covered by the Washington Accord, an international agreement between the professional engineering bodies in a number of countries, including NZ, Australia, UK, USA, and Canada, that enables engineering graduates of those countries to work as engineers in other signatory countries.

As engineers you will be especially privileged and I am sure many of you, probably within the first 5 years of your professional life, will take advantage of this “passport” to travel. For our kiwi students you will follow in the footsteps of thousands of other kiwi engineers who have expanded their experience, both professional and personal, through overseas travel and returning to New Zealand with refined and broadened skillsets to benefit your own country.

You have chosen to study in a discipline that offers tremendous professional opportunities both locally and abroad. The first step in taking advantage of those opportunities is the successful completion of your studies. Take your studies seriously, work hard, push yourself beyond your pre-conceived limits and you will reap the benefits for many years to come.

Rajesh Dhakal

3.3 Second Year

All of the courses listed are compulsory

3.4 Third Year

3.4.1 Civil Engineering

The Third Year for Civil Engineering students consists of nine compulsory courses and one elective. The compulsory courses consist of:

Course		Semester Held	Prerequisite/ Co-requisite
ENCN301	Communications Skills Portfolio 2	Full year	ENCN201
ENCN304	Deterministic Mathematical Methods	S1	EMTH210
ENCI335	Structural Analysis and Systems 1	S1	ENCN231 EMTH210
ENCN353 ENCN342	Geotechnical Engineering	S1	ENCN253

3.5.3 Civil Engineering - Minor in Structural Engineering

Students taking the Minor in Structural Engineering must complete:

Course		Prerequisite/ Co-requisite
ENCI436	Behaviour and Design of Structures 2	ENCI335/336, ENCI438
ENCI438	Introduction to Structural Earthquake Engineering	ENCI335/336

along with one further 15-point 400-level elective from the list of Civil Engineering electives in Section 3.5.2.

Students taking the Minor in Structural Engineering must also allocate to an ENCN493 Project topic with a structural engineering focus as approved by the Director of Studies. Most (but not all) of the projects relevant to this Minor are indicated as such in the project allocation list, but should be confirmed with potential project supervisors.

3.5.5 Natural Resources Engineering

Students must take 60 points of 400-level electives in S1. The list of courses available for Natural Resources Engineering students is provided below:

4 Departmental Policies and Procedures

4.1 Overview

The University of Canterbury has a range of formal regulations printed in the

4.3 Grades and Assessment

Course grades will be assigned based on students' ability to meet the objectives of the course to an appropriate academic standard. The Course Coordinator is responsible for converting raw coursework and exam marks into final grades. Some academics will provide coursework marks on Learn and others will opt to return your assessment with the mark clearly shown. Students are responsible for checking that the marks have been assigned accurately before the final examination.

Each Course Coordinator is responsible for judging the distribution of grades for their course. The grades and distribution are reviewed by other lecturers teaching that course as well as the Department and Faculty examination committees. Thus, a raw mark of 50% in a course is not a guarantee of a pass, nor is it necessarily equivalent to a C- grade. Note that in some courses, a pass in the final exam and/or midterm test is required to pass the course, regardless of the other assessment marks. This will be stated in the relevant course outline. The Faculty of Engineering provides reference GPA values for each course

must follow the formal UC process as detailed at the link above. In the case of an internal assessment item (e.g. assignment or report), students must follow the process laid out in

Figure 3: Process for Special Considerations application

4.5.3 Sporting and Cultural Commitments

If you are involved in sport, or cultural, activities at national or international level, please contact your

Figure 4: Departmental process for repeating students first failure of paper

Figure 5: Departmental process for repeating students second failure of paper

Students who fail a Fourth Year elective course need not repeat the same course, but must successfully pass 60 points of approved 400-level electives in order to meet the coursework requirements of the BE(Hons). Students who fail one of the Third Year

Repeating courses creates a number of largely unavoidable difficulties:

Timetable conflicts invariably occur for students who take courses from two separate years. When this happens, a student must make a choice about which lectures to attend and then obtain class notes from a friend for missed lectures or rely on lecture recordings (if available). Priority should be given to passing the earlier course(s).

Courses often form a prerequisite for a higher level course. If you fail a course, this will prevent you from taking a higher level course until you have passed all of its prerequisites.

4.8 Professional Conduct

Engineering is a profession and consequently Civil and Natural Resources engineers are expected to behave in a professional manner in the workplace and to perform their work in an ethical and honest way. Ethics in professional engineering means competence, personal integrity and social responsibility. The Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering firmly expects future engineers (i.e. all students to uphold the same level of ethics and accepted standards of behaviour befitting a qualified engineer throughout their course of study.

Any behaviour that may be offensive to staff and/or other students is considered unacceptable. This includes a but is not limited to being disruptive by talking loudly or excessively in class, entering a lecture after it has started, using departmental computers to view pornographic material, bullying or intimidation of students or staff, and any drunkenness or intoxication on University premises.

All students are expected to be familiar with the University's codes, policies, and procedures including but not limited to the Student Code of Coifroc7-5(i)6(f)-2rTf1 0-5n.04 rep

