Chemical and Biological Engineering

Degrees Offered

- Master of Science (Chemical Engineering)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Chemical Engineering)

Program Description

The Chemical and Biological Engineering Department of the Colorado School of Mines is a dynamic, exciting environment for research and higher education. Mines provides a rigorous educational experience where faculty and top-notch students work together on meaningful research with far-reaching societal applications. Departmental research areas include bioengineering, catalysis, colloids and complex fluids, computational science, fuel cells, gas hydrates, membranes, polymers, and solar and electronic materials. Visit our website for additional information about our graduate program. http://chemeng.mines.edu/

Program Requirements

Prerequisites

The program outlined here assumes that the candidate for an advanced degree has a background in chemistry, mathematics, and physics equivalent to that required for the BS degree in Chemical Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. Undergraduate course deficiencies must be removed prior to enrollment in graduate coursework.

The essential undergraduate courses include:

- CBEN201 MATERIAL AND ENERGY BALANCES 3.0
- CBEN307 FLUID MECHANICS 3.0
- CBEN308 HEAT TRANSFER 3.0
- CBEN357 CHEMICAL ENGINEERING THERMODYNAMICS 3.0
- CBEN375 CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SEPARATIONS 3.0
- CBEN418 KINETICS AND REACTION ENGINEERING 3.0

Total Semester Hrs 18.0

Required Curriculum

Master of Science Program

Master of Science (with Thesis)

Students entering the Master of Science (with thesis) program with an acceptable undergraduate degree in chemical engineering are required to take a minimum of 18 semester hours of coursework. All students must complete:

Chemical Engineering core graduate courses

- CBEN507 APPLIED MATHEMATICS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING 3.0
  or CBEN505 NUMERICAL METHODS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
- CBEN509 ADVANCED CHEMICAL ENGINEERING THERMODYNAMICS 3.0
- CBEN516 ADVANCED TRANSPORT PHENOMENA 3.0
  or CBEN430/530 TRANSPORT PHENOMENA
- CBEN518 REACTION KINETICS AND CATALYSIS 3.0
  or CBEN519 ADVANCED TOPICS IN HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSIS
- ELECT Approved Electives 18.0

Total Semester Hrs 30.0

Students must take a minimum of 6 research credits, complete, and defend an acceptable Masters dissertation. Upon approval of the thesis committee, graduate credit may be earned for 400-level courses. Between coursework and research credits a student must earn a minimum of 30 total semester hours. Full-time Masters students must enroll in graduate colloquium (CBEN605) each semester.

Master of Science (Non-Thesis)

Students entering the Master of Science (non-thesis) program with an acceptable undergraduate degree in chemical engineering are required to take a minimum of 30 semester hours of coursework. All students must complete:

Chemical Engineering core graduate courses

- CBEN507 APPLIED MATHEMATICS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING 3.0
  or CBEN505 NUMERICAL METHODS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
- CBEN509 ADVANCED CHEMICAL ENGINEERING THERMODYNAMICS 3.0
- CBEN516 ADVANCED TRANSPORT PHENOMENA 3.0
  or CBEN430/530 TRANSPORT PHENOMENA
- CBEN518 REACTION KINETICS AND CATALYSIS 3.0
  or CBEN519 ADVANCED TOPICS IN HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSIS
- ELECT Approved Electives 18.0

Total Semester Hrs 30.0

Students may complete an acceptable engineering report for up to 6 hours of academic credit. Upon approval of the advisor, graduate credit may be earned for selected 400-level courses. Full-time Masters students must enroll in graduate colloquium (CBEN605) each semester.

Mines undergraduates enrolled in the combined BS/MS degree program must meet the requirements described above for the MS portion of their degree (both thesis and non-thesis). Students accepted into the combined program may take graduate coursework and/or research credits as an undergraduate and have them applied to their MS degree. Students enrolled within the combined program may choose up to six credits of CBEN coursework at the 400-level and above (that has been successfully completed with a grade of B or above) to "double-count", that is, apply towards both their Bachelor of Science degree requirements and their Master of Science degree requirements simultaneously.

Doctor of Philosophy Program

The course of study for the PhD degree consists of a minimum of 30 semester hours of coursework. All PhD students must complete:
study. An oral examination consisting of a defense of the thesis proposal is required. After passing the Qualifying Exam, all PhD candidates are required to prepare a detailed written proposal on the subject of their PhD research. The oral examination will consist of a presentation by the student on a technical paper from chemical engineering literature. Students will choose a paper from a list determined by the faculty. Papers for the oral examination will be distributed well in advance of the oral portion of the exam so students have sufficient time to prepare their presentations. The student is required to relate the paper to the core chemical engineering classes and present a research plan, followed by questions from the faculty. A 1-2 page paper on the research plan is due the Friday prior to the oral examination. If a student fails the first attempt at the qualifying exam, his/her grade must be retaken at the next regularly scheduled examination time. Failure of the PhD qualifying examination does not disqualify a student for the PhD program. In the case of failure, two negative votes from the doctoral committee members are required for failure of the PhD Proposal Defense. In the case of failure, one re-examination will be allowed upon petition to the Department Head. Failure to complete the PhD Proposal Defense within the allotted time without an approved postponement will result in failure. Under extenuating circumstances a student may postpone the exam with approval of the Graduate Affairs committee, based on the recommendation of the student’s thesis committee. In such cases, a student must submit a written request for postponement that describes the circumstances and proposes a new date. Requests for postponement must be presented to the thesis committee no later than 2 weeks before the end of the semester in which the exam would normally have been taken.

PhD Qualifying Examination

The PhD qualifying examination will be offered twice each year, at the start and end of the Spring semester. All students who have entered the PhD program must take the qualifying examination at the first possible opportunity. However, a student must be in good academic standing (above 3.0 GPA) to take the qualifying exam. A student may retake the examination once if he/she fails the first time; however, the examination must be retaken at the next regularly scheduled examination time. Failure of the PhD qualifying examination does not disqualify a student for the MS degree, although failure may affect the student’s financial aid status.

The qualifying examination will cover the traditional areas of Chemical Engineering, and will consist of two parts: GPA from core graduate classes (CBEN507, CBEN509, CBEN516, and CBEN518) and an oral examination. The oral examination will consist of a presentation by the student on a technical paper from chemical engineering literature. Students will choose a paper from a list determined by the faculty. Papers for the oral examination will be distributed well in advance of the oral portion of the exam so students have sufficient time to prepare their presentations. The student is required to relate the paper to the core chemical engineering classes and present a research plan, followed by questions from the faculty. A 1-2 page paper on the research plan is due the Friday prior to the oral examination. If a student fails the first attempt at the qualifying exam, his/her grade from a 600 level Chemical Engineering elective can replace the lowest grade from the core graduate classes for, and only for, the GPA calculation defined above.

PhD Proposal Defense

After passing the Qualifying Exam, all PhD candidates are required to prepare a detailed written proposal on the subject of their PhD research topic. An oral examination consisting of a defense of the thesis proposal must be completed prior to their fifth semester. Written proposals must be submitted to the student’s thesis committee no later than one week prior to the scheduled oral examination. Two negative votes from the doctoral committee members are required for failure of the PhD Proposal Defense. In the case of failure, one re-examination will be allowed upon petition to the Department Head. Failure to complete the PhD Proposal Defense within the allotted time without an approved postponement will result in failure. Under extenuating circumstances a student may postpone the exam with approval of the Graduate Affairs committee, based on the recommendation of the student’s thesis committee.

Courses

CBEN504. ADVANCED PROCESS ENGINEERING ECONOMICS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Advanced engineering economic principles applied to original and alternate investments. Analysis of chemical and petroleum processes relative to marketing and return on investments. Prerequisite: none. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN505. NUMERICAL METHODS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Engineering applications of numerical methods. Numerical integration, solution of algebraic equations, matrix 54 Colorado School of Mines Graduate Bulletin 2011 2012 algebra, ordinary differential equations, and special emphasis on partial differential equations. Emphasis on application of numerical methods to chemical engineering problems which cannot be solved by analytical methods. Prerequisite: none. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN506. ADVANCED FUNCTIONAL POROUS MATERIALS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Foundation on basic chemical strategies for making nanomaterials. Integration of fundamentals and functional applications of ordered porous materials at different length scales: from micro to macroporous regime. Chemical engineering concepts in nanochemistry. Existing and emerging functional applications of these porous materials in gas separations, heterogeneous catalysis, and adsorption.

CBEN507. APPLIED MATHEMATICS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(I, II) This course stresses the application of mathematics to problems drawn from chemical and biological engineering fundamentals such as thermodynamics, transport phenomena, and kinetics. Formulation and solution of ordinary and partial differential equations arising in chemical engineering or related processes or operations are discussed. Prerequisite: Undergraduate differential equations course; undergraduate chemical engineering courses covering reaction kinetics, and heat, mass and momentum transfer. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN509. ADVANCED CHEMICAL ENGINEERING THERMODYNAMICS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Extension and amplification of under graduate chemical engineering thermodynamics. Topics will include the laws of thermodynamics, thermodynamic properties of pure fluids and fluid mixtures, phase equilibria, and chemical reaction equilibria. Prerequisite: CBEN357 or equivalent. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.
CBEN511. NEUROSCIENCE, MEMORY, AND LEARNING. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Equivalent with CBEN411.
(I) This course relates the hard sciences of the brain and neuroscience to memory encoding and current learning theories. Successful students in the course should be able to read, understand, and critique current, scholarly literature on the topic of Neuroscience, Memory, and Learning. When this course is cross-listed and concurrent with CBEN411, students that enroll in CBEN511 will complete additional and/or more complex assignments. Prerequisites: CBEN110, CBEN120, CHGN221, CHGN222, PHGN100, and PHGN200. 3 hours lecture, 3 semester hours.

CBEN513. SELECTED TOPICS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. 1-3 Semester Hr.
Selected topics chosen from special interests of instructor and students. Course may be repeated for credit on different topics. Prerequisite: none. 1 to 3 semester hours lecture/discussion; 1 to 3 semester hours.

CBEN516. ADVANCED TRANSPORT PHENOMENA. 3.0 Semester Hrs.

CBEN518. REACTION KINETICS AND CATALYSIS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(I) This course applies the fundamentals of kinetics, transport and thermodynamics to the analysis of gas-phase and catalytic reactions. A focus is placed on a molecular description of chemical kinetics with applications to the design and analysis chemical and biological reactors, complex reaction networks, and catalysis. Prerequisite: CBEN418 or equivalent. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN519. ADVANCED TOPICS IN HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSIS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Heterogenous catalysts are the workhorse of the chemical industry and are responsible for many of the critical chemical transformations tied to the technological progress of our society. From enabling the development of processes to produce gasoline for transportation and fertilizers for food security, passing through the development of car catalytic converters to eliminate toxic emissions, to now being called to play a central role in many technological challenges such as transforming CO2 to useful compounds, biomass to useful fuels, water to hydrogen fuels, powering cars using fuel cells, among many others. This grad/undergrad course will take the student on a learning journey through the state-of-the-art of catalyst development. The journey will be made through the fundamental basics of both computational/theoretical and experimental/practical aspects of catalyst development, with Special Topic sessions discussing the most up to date examples of synergistic integration of these aspects in industry and research. Not only will the student gain an understanding of what kind of critical societal problems are tried to be solved by developing new catalysts, but also will gain an understanding of how that development is taking place and what entails.

CBEN522. CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FLOW ASSURANCE. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Chemical Engineering Flow Assurance will include the principles of the application of thermodynamics and mesoscopic and microscopic tools that can be applied to the production of oil field fluids, including mitigation strategies for solids, including gas hydrates, waxes, and asphaltenes. Prerequisite: CBEN357.

CBEN524. COMPUTER-AIDED PROCESS SIMULATION. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Advanced concepts in computer-aided process simulation are covered. Topics include optimization, heat exchanger networks, data regression analysis, and separations systems. Use of industry-standard process simulation software (Aspen Plus) is stressed. Prerequisite: none. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN530. TRANSPORT PHENOMENA. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
This course covers theory and applications of momentum, energy, and mass transfer based on microscopic control volumes. Analytical and numerical solution methods are employed in this course. Students registered for the 500-level version of this course will complete an additional project using finite element analysis software and present an oral or written report. Prerequisite: MATH225 or equivalent.

CBEN531. IMMUNOLOGY FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(II) This course introduces the basic concepts of immunology and their applications in engineering and science. We will discuss the molecular, biochemical and cellular aspects of the immune system including structure and function of the innate and acquired immune systems. Building on this, we will discuss the immune response to infectious agents and the material science of introduced implants and materials such as heart valves, artificial joints, organ transplants and lenses. We will also discuss the role of the immune system in cancer, allergies, immune deficiencies, vaccination and other applications such as immunoassay and flow cytometry. Prerequisites: Biology BIOL110 or equivalent or graduate standing.

CBEN535. INTERDISCIPLINARY MICROELECTRONICS PROCESSING LABORATORY. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Equivalent with MLGN535.PHGN435.PHGN535, Application of science and engineering principles to the design, fabrication, and testing of micro electronic devices. Emphasis on specific unit operations and the interrelation among processing steps. 1 hour lecture, 4 hours lab; 3 semester hours.

CBEN550. MEMBRANE SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
This course is an introduction to the fabrication, characterization, and application of synthetic membranes for gas and liquid separations. Industrial membrane processes such as reverse osmosis, filtration, pervaporation, and gas separations will be covered as well as new applications from the research literature. The course will include lecture, experimental, and computational (molecular simulation) laboratory components. Prerequisites: CBEN375, CBEN430. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN554. APPLIED BIOINFORMATICS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(II) In this course we will discuss the concepts and tools of bioinformatics. The molecular biology of genomics and proteomics will be presented and the techniques for collecting, storing, retrieving and processing such data will be discussed. Topics include analyzing DNA, RNA and protein sequences, gene recognition, gene expression, protein structure prediction, modeling evolution, utilizing BLAST and other online tools for the exploration of genome, proteome and other available databases. In parallel, there will be an introduction to the PERL programming language. Practical applications to biological research and disease will be presented and students given opportunities to use the tools discussed. General Biology BIOL110 or Graduate standing.
CBEN559. SPECIAL TOPICS. 6.0 Semester Hrs.
(I, II, S) Pilot course or special topics course. Topics chosen from special interests of instructor(s) and student(s). Usually the course is offered only once, but no more than twice for the same course content. Prerequisite: none. Variable credit: 0 to 6 credit hours. Repeatable for credit under different titles.

CBEN598. SPECIAL TOPICS. 6.0 Semester Hrs.
(I, II, S) Pilot course or special topics course. Topics chosen from special interests of instructor(s) and student(s). Usually the course is offered only once, but no more than twice for the same course content. Prerequisite: none. Variable credit: 0 to 6 credit hours. Repeatable for credit under different titles.

CBEN604. TOPICAL RESEARCH SEMINARS. 1.0 Semester Hr.
Lectures, reports, and discussions on current research in chemical engineering, usually related to the student?s thesis topic. Sections are operated independently and are directed toward different research topics. Course may be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: none. 1 hour lecture-discussion; 1 semester hour. Repeatable for credit to a maximum of 3 hours.

CBEN605. COLLOQUIUM. 1.0 Semester Hr.
Students will attend a series of lectures by speakers from industry, academia, and government. Primary emphasis will be on current research in chemical engineering and related disciplines, with secondary emphasis on ethical, philosophical, and career-related issues of importance to the chemical engineering profession. Prerequisite: Graduate status.

CBEN608. ADVANCED TOPICS IN FLUID MECHANICS. 1-3 Semester Hr.
Indepth analysis of selected topics in fluid mechanics with special emphasis on chemical engineering applications. Prerequisite: CBEN508. 1 to 3 hours lecture discussion; 1 to 3 semester hours.

CBEN609. ADVANCED TOPICS IN THERMODYNAMICS. 1-3 Semester Hr.
Advanced study of thermodynamic theory and application of thermodynamic principles. Possible topics include stability, critical phenomena, chemical thermodynamics, thermodynamics of polymer solutions and thermodynamics of aqueous and ionic solutions. Prerequisite: none. 1 to 3 semester hours.

CBEN610. APPLIED STATISTICAL THERMODYNAMICS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Principles of relating behavior to microscopic properties. Topics include element of probability, ensemble theory, application to gases and solids, distribution theories of fluids, and transport properties. Prerequisite: none. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN617. GRADUATE TRANSPORT PHENOMENA II. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(II) Analysis of momentum, heat, and mass transfer problems using advanced analytical and numerical methods with an emphasis on coupled transport problems and irregular geometries. Advanced analytical techniques may include regular and singular perturbation analysis, eigenvalue problems, finite Fourier transforms, and Laplace transforms. Numerical methods for solving differential equations include finite differences, finite elements, Monte Carlo methods, and computational fluid dynamics. Prerequisite: CBEN516. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.
CBEN620. ENGINEERING OF SOFT MATTER. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(II) Soft matter is a field of inquiry involving physical systems having low moduli and which are structured on length scales ranging from about 10 nanometers up to 100 microns. This graduate level class provides a survey of relevant material systems including polymers, colloids, surfactants, liquid crystals, and biological materials. The course emphasis is on the chemical physics of soft materials and therefore requires a high level of mathematical sophistication; students should have the equivalent of one semester of graduate level applied mathematics as a prerequisite. A term paper in the form of a short publishable review of a relevant topic is a major component of the class. Prerequisites: the equivalent of one semester of graduate level applied mathematics. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN624. APPLIED STATISTICAL MECHANICS. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
This course will introduce the both rigorous and approximate theories to estimate the macroscopic thermodynamic properties of systems based on laws that control the behavior of molecules. Course contents include classical dynamics and phase space, different types of ensembles, ideal and interacting gases, modern theory of liquids, ideal solids, as well as molecular simulation techniques. Prerequisite: Undergraduate-level classical thermodynamics.

CBEN625. MOLECULAR SIMULATION. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Principles and practice of modern computer simulation techniques used to understand solids, liquids, and gases. Review of the statistical foundation of thermodynamics followed by in-depth discussion of Monte Carlo and Molecular Dynamics techniques. Discussion of intermolecular potentials, extended ensembles, and mathematical algorithms used in molecular simulations. Prerequisites: CBEN509 or equivalent, CBEN610 or equivalent recommended. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.

CBEN630. PROPOSAL PREPARATION. 1.0 Semester Hr.
(I) This course is designed to guide students through the steps in writing a proposal. The Proposal writing process is divided into logical steps each of which when completed will lead to the graduate student having a draft proposal that could be successfully defended. Topics include: how to conduct a literature search and maintain an up to date database of relevant sources; Writing of a literature review in the context of a proposal; how to write a testable scientific hypothesis; the format and writing of a scientific paper; how best to present data and errors; an understanding of ethics and plagiarism issues; writing of a work plan with tasks related to objectives and time budget, Gantt charts; creation of a project budget; presentation techniques and oral defense of the proposal. 1 hour lecture; 1 semester hour. Repeatable.

CBEN690. SUPERVISED TEACHING OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
(I) Individual participation in teaching, outreach, and/or pedagogical research activities. Discussion, problem review and development, guidance of laboratory experiments, course development, supervised practice teaching. 6 to 10 hours supervised teaching; 3 semester hours. Prerequisite: Good academic standing, CBEN 507, CBEN 509, CBEN 516, CBEN 518.

CBEN698. SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. 3.0 Semester Hrs.
Pilot course or special topics course. Topics chosen from special interests of instructor(s) and student(s). Usually the course is offered only once, but no more than twice for the same course content. Variable credit: 0 to 6 credit hours. Repeatable for credit under different titles. Prerequisite: none.

CBEN699. INDEPENDENT STUDY. 0.5-6 Semester Hr.
(I, II, S) Individual research or special problem projects supervised by a faculty member, also, when a student and instructor agree on a subject matter, content, and credit hours. Prerequisite: Independent Study form must be completed and submitted to the Registrar. Variable credit: 0.5 to 6 credit hours. Repeatable for credit under different topics/ experience and maximums vary by department. Contact the Department for credit limits toward the degree.

CBEN707. GRADUATE THESIS / DISSERTATION RESEARCH CREDIT. 1-15 Semester Hr.
(I, II, S) Research credit hours required for completion of a Masters-level thesis or Doctoral dissertation. Research must be carried out under the direct supervision of the student's faculty advisor. Variable class and semester hours. Repeatable for credit.

Professors
Sumit Agarwal
Moises A. Carreon
Anuj Chauhan, Department Head
Andrew M. Herring
Carolyn A. Koh, William K. Coors Distinguished Chair of Chemical and Biological Engineering
David W.M. Marr, Gaylord & Phyllis Weaver Distinguished Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering
Amadeu Sum
Colin A. Wolden
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Associate Professors
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Ning Wu

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Stephanie Kwon
Alexander Pak
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Teaching Professors
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Tracy Q. Gardner

Teaching Associate Professors
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Rachel M. Morrish, Assistant Department Head
Cynthia L. Norrgran
C. Joshua Ramey
Justin Shaffer

Professor of Practice
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Professors Emeriti
Robert M. Baldwin
Annette L. Bunge
Anthony M. Dean
James F. Ely, University Professor Emeritus
J. Thomas McKinnon
Ronald L. Miller
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Charles Vestal
J. Douglas Way
Victor F. Yesavage