

Mechanical Engineering Professionalism Requirement

Applies to the Fall 2013 Requirement Term and Later - Updated 7.20.16

The goal of the ME Professionalism Requirement is to prepare students for successful careers through the development of skills related to teamwork, communication, and professional/ethical responsibility. The requirement consists of an introductory seminar (MCEN2000) as well as a number of supplemental activities. Both the seminar and the supplemental events are made possible by support from Shell, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Career Services.

MCEN2000: Mechanical Engineering as a Profession

The ME Professionalism Seminar serves as a foundation for students in Mechanical Engineering to complete their professionalism requirement. The course material includes three activities (see below) that are specifically required for the Buffs Pro Program.

1. Resume
2. Mock Interview
3. Career Advising Session

Additional Requirements

In addition to successfully completing MCEN2000, students are required to participate in four supplemental activities prior to graduation. Approved events will be announced through the mcen-undergrad listserv and posted in the calendar section of the ME Buffs Pro page on D2L.

1. Industry Connections (2) - Events in this category specifically involve interaction with representatives from industry. The goal of the events is to familiarize participants with a variety of different companies/career fields, as well as with the etiquette involved with professional interactions. Examples of approved events would be career fairs, networking nights, and select company info sessions.
2. Professional Development (2) - These events focus on any of a wide range of topics related to professional development. Examples could include presentations related to the environmental impact of technology, workshops focused on developing an effective team, and entrepreneurship events. Because basic job search topics like resume and cover letter writing are already covered in MCEN2000, events focused on those topics will generally not be approved for credit.

In addition to the options posted on D2L, you can request professionalism credit for non-department events by submitting a description to your Academic Advisor for review. The specific events that we are likely to approve include:

- Professional Conferences – presenting a poster/paper, serving on a panel, or attending a professionalism related seminar or networking event
- Engineering Student Group Involvement – substantive leadership role
- New Venture Challenge – present a business idea at pitch night
- ROTC – summer trainings can substitute for both of your industry connections events
- Other events unique to your interests that focus on the topics described above

Getting Credit for Attendance

Make sure to sign-in on the "ME Professionalism Institute" check-in sheet at each event. If an event does not have a check-in sheet with that specific wording at the top, please have the event facilitator sign an individual event attendance form. Attendance forms should be submitted to your Undergraduate Advisor.