Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of The College of New Jersey!

We believe that the programs in the Department offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as you help make your future goals a reality. As a new student you will be working with an award-winning faculty ready to inspire and challenge you to do your very best work.

It will be an exciting summer at TCNJ and especially in our own department, and I look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation.

Advising Information

You will be assigned an advisor from our department who will meet with you regularly throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work, independent studies that you might want to pursue, or other academic questions that arise prior to, during, or subsequent to registration each semester. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all necessary courses for graduation.

Until your advisor is assigned, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at all. You can reach me at (609) 771-2470 or by email at hernande@tcnj.edu.

Your First Semester

On the back of this letter we have compiled an “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence” document that provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP).

As department chair, I’m excited to have you join our community. Let’s make this a great year!

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First semester course requirements for engineering majors at TCNJ are common to all engineering programs (Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Management, Mechanical Engineering and Open Options Engineering). You will take the following courses during your first semester:

A “full” course load is five course units.

- ENG 91 – Engineering Seminar (0 unit)
- ENG 95 – Introduction to Engineering (0 unit)
- ENG 142 – Fund. of Engineering Design OR CSC 215 – Computer Science 1 (1 unit)
- CHE 201 – General Chemistry 1 (1 unit)
- PHY 201 – General Physics 1 (1 unit)
- MAT 127 – Calculus A (1 unit)
- IDS 102 – Information Literacy Proficiency (0 unit)
- IDS 103 – Community Engaged Learning (0 unit)
- FSP 1xx – (First Seminar Program) (1 unit)
- SRP 99 – Summer Reading Program (0 unit)

The School of Engineering will prepare a first semester schedule for entering students.

The only curricular choice engineering students have in their first semester involves selection of the First Seminar Program (FSP) course topic. The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program at TCNJ. Every first year student at TCNJ must take an FSP course. Multiple classes (offerings) of the same course are sometimes available, and each addresses a specific “theme.”

To assist us in identifying an FSP class of interest to you, we ask that you proceed as follows:

1. Review the “themes” for the available sections of FSP course numbers FSP 161, 162, 163 and 164 online at http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu/.
2. Select six FSP classes for the above course numbers, in accordance with your interests, and make your selections on your online First Semester Worksheet.

Please note the following:

- ONLY select six FSP classes of interest to you on your online First Semester Worksheet. We will take care of the rest! Your FSP selections will be visible to us in alphabetical order and not in order of preference. We will do our best to register you for one of your selections.

- Students who are registered for ENG 142 in their first semester will take CSC 215 in the second, and vice versa.

- Mathematics placement will determine eligibility for enrollment into MAT 127, CHE 201 and PHY 201. To place into MAT 127 you will need a SAT Math score of 650 or above, or an ACT score of 29 or above. Placement into PHY 201 requires concurrent enrollment in MAT 127. Placement into CHE 201 requires a SAT Math Score of 550 or above, or an ACT score of 24 or above. Students who do not meet the placement criteria will be registered for alternatives required of their academic program.

- IDS 102, IDS 103 and ENG 91 are zero credit offerings, without a formal meeting time. To complete these courses, you will need to satisfy a set of requirements that will be explained to you at a later date. ENG 95 is a zero credit offering with a formal weekly meeting that serves as an orientation to the engineering profession. Successful completion of these courses is required for degree completion.

- Liberal Learning: Unless you earn credit from AP scores in one of the required courses in your First Semester Sequence, you will not be taking additional liberal learning courses during your first semester. However, you will eventually need to complete the liberal learning program as part of your graduation requirements. Please visit http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu and different Liberal Learning Program paths.

- Students pursuing second majors, minors, or Liberal Learning concentrations, and students with AP or transfer credit will be able to discuss registration alternatives with their department chairperson/coordinator during our on campus Orientation event in July. The AP Legend on the Records and Registration website outlines the minimum score required to receive credit for TCNJ coursework. Students with earned credit in the math or science area typically move forth in the respective sequence if required by their major.

- Summer Reading Program (SRP 99): This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.