In 1891 Jane and Leland Stanford incorporated engineering into the original Stanford curriculum because they foresaw that there would be an extensive need for engineers in the West and wanted to provide a practical education for pioneer families. Civil and Mechanical Engineering were the first two engineering programs introduced when Stanford opened in 1891; Electrical and Mining Engineering were added the following year. Even though Stanford incorporates the whole spectrum of academia, engineering remains a favored field.

Today Stanford Engineering is building on a foundation of innovation that has extended nearly a century, creating pivotal technologies that transformed the worlds of information technology, communications, medicine, energy, and beyond. The faculty, students, and alumni of Stanford Engineering have established thousands of companies and laid the technological and business foundations for Silicon Valley. Founded in 1925, the School has a tradition of pursuing multidisciplinary collaboration aimed at solving the most pressing global problems.

Stanford Engineering at a Glance

- Nearly 5000 undergraduate and graduate-level students; about 40 percent of declared undergraduate and graduate-level students on campus are engineers
- More than 250 faculty members
- More than 80 labs, centers, and affiliate programs involving students in research
- Ten departments and 16 programs of undergraduate study; see reverse page for listings

Onward: Our students gain an unrivaled education in the fundamentals of their chosen engineering disciplines, enjoy opportunities to learn and conduct research in a multidisciplinary environment, pursue solutions to global challenges, and benefit from the proximity of Silicon Valley. Students can reach far beyond areas traditionally associated with engineering to address challenges in areas of health, energy, and environmental sustainability. In 2015, examples of work by Stanford engineers included building an autonomous Delorean to study how cars perform in extreme situations; discovering how heated metal oxide converts photons into energy more readily, which could lead to a revolutionary change in how we produce, store, and consume energy; and creating a super-stretchy, self-healing material that could lead to artificial muscles.

Browse the Jen-Hsun Huang Engineering Center
Be sure to visit the student-oriented space on the lower Terrace Level; here you can peek in the windows of our student workshop, observe students studying together, or look into glass-walled labs located on the corridor that links Huang with the Spilker Engineering & Applied Sciences building to the North. Questions about academics are addressed on our School of Engineering website at engineering.stanford.edu; you can ask in 135 Huang if you have additional questions about undergraduate academics (questions about admissions or financial aid can be addressed by Visitor Center staff).

Undergraduate and Graduate Engineering Programs
For details on UG engineering major programs, pick up a copy of our Handbook for Undergraduate Engineering Programs in 135 Huang or view it online at ughb.stanford.edu. For information on graduate programs, visit the various departments (see reverse page for a contact name and location) or link to departmental websites from engineering.stanford.edu. All ten engineering departments and the Institute for Computational & Mathematical Engineering (ICME) offer graduate degree programs. Students interested in graduate studies within the School of Engineering should apply directly to a particular program or department; undergrad candidates apply directly to the University, not to the School.

The Mission of the School of Engineering is to “Seek solutions to important global problems and to educate leaders who will turn great ideas into real changes that will make the world a better place.”
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