

To: Undergraduate EE and CSE Students

From: Kim Boyer, ECSE Department Head

Re: Curriculum Changes

In response to feedback from students, alumni, and the External Advisory Board, we have removed the requirement that students complete a two-course concentration as part of both the Electrical Engineering and Computer and Systems Engineering programs. While taking a number of courses within a concentration area is valuable and will continue to be encouraged, we recognize that taking a wider selection of courses may be more useful for students who are uncertain about which area to pursue. Although this change takes effect immediately for all students, it is important to note that it adds flexibility to the programs and does not require students to change their course selection. A selection of courses that satisfies the program requirements before the change also satisfies them after the change.

The changes to the templates impact the Concentration Elective I, Concentration Elective II, and Restricted Elective which are usually taken in the senior year. The listing below shows the changes.

EE

Concentration Elective I \Rightarrow Technical Elective (any course in engineering or science at the 4000 level or higher)

Concentration Elective II \Rightarrow Restricted Elective (ECSE-4xxx, ECSE-6xxx)

Restricted Elective \Rightarrow Restricted Elective (ECSE-4xxx, ECSE-6xxx)

CSE

Concentration Elective I \Rightarrow Technical Elective (any course in engineering or science at the 4000 level or higher)

Concentration Elective II \Rightarrow Restricted Elective (ECSE-4xxx, ECSE-6xxx, CSCI-4xxx or CSCI-6xxx)

Restricted Elective \Rightarrow Restricted Elective (ECSE-4xxx, ECSE-6xxx, CSCI-4xxx or CSCI-6xxx)

As shown above, one of the Concentration Electives is converted into a Technical Elective which is defined as any course in engineering or science at the 4000 level or higher. While this requirement can be met with a course from ECSE or CSCI, it provides students with the opportunity to take a course in another department within engineering or science, including a course in mathematics. The second Concentration Elective is converted into a Restricted Elective which can be fulfilled with a 4000 level or higher ECSE course for EEs or a 4000 level or higher course in ECSE or CSCI for CSEs. Note that the Restricted Elective no longer can be fulfilled using a 4000 level ENGR course. A 4000 level ENGR course can, however, be used to satisfy the Technical Elective.

Updated program templates are available on the ECSE website at www.ecse.rpi.edu. Also available is a revised listing of concentration areas and courses. As noted above, even though students are no longer required to complete a concentration, it is still suggested that they do so.