What can you do with a degree in… Civil Engineering?

What is Civil Engineering?

Civil engineers create the infrastructure of modern society, they are responsible for everything from roadways to water management to the buildings we live and work in. Civil engineers develop techniques to solve environmental problems; they design buildings to be structurally solid, resisting gravity, wind and earthquakes; they imagine, construct and maintain the complex transportation systems that keep our society rolling. They ensure that water and electricity are delivered to communities, and that roads, train lines, bridges and airports are properly built and maintained. Increasingly, civil engineers focus on environmental conservation, ecosystem restoration, waste reduction and recycling.

Civil engineering involves mathematics, chemistry and physics, and work in the field is usually team-based, the ideal civil engineer is an effective communicator who enjoys working with other people. Civil engineers deal with complex issues, so you will develop good problem-solving skills.

Where do graduates work?

Employment opportunities for civil engineers range from working on contract projects for individual companies such as consulting firms or construction companies, to working for municipalities that commission projects or for government agencies that oversee industries and communities.

Recent graduates in Civil Engineering have gone on to exciting careers in a wide variety of industries, here a just a few:

AECOM, Transportation Planning Engineer
CIMA+, Jr. Engineer
Genivar, Transportation Planner
Halsall, Project Associate
Imperial Oil, Remediation Project Specialist
Inspec-Sol, Geotechnical Project Coordinator
Kiewit Construction, Construction Engineer
SNC-Lavalin, Jr. Structural Engineer

Industries

Civil engineers often work as technical specialists in their fields, on projects in construction design and management, LEED projects, water and power management, geo-technology and transportation design, and environmental engineering. These are some common industries that require civil engineers:

- Construction, Building & Design
- Transportation
- Energy and Utilities: Alternative Energy, Hydro, Oil & Gas, Water
- Municipal Engineering
- Engineering and Management Consulting
- Materials Science
- Financial Services
- Manufacturing & Processing
- Mining
- Scientific & Technical Services

Useful Resources

Career Resources

McGill University's Engineering Career Centre (ECC)
- Resources, information, job postings and links for engineering students

myFuture
- Job postings for McGill students

The Engineering Institute of Canada
- Engineering Career Network

Professional Organizations

Engineers Canada
- The national organization of the 12 licensing bodies that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada

Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec
- The regulating body for Engineers in Quebec

Canadian Society for Civil Engineering
- Created to develop and maintain high standards of civil engineering practice in Canada and to enhance the public image of the civil engineering profession□

American Society of Civil Engineers
- Represents more than 140,000 members of the civil engineering profession worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society.

Student Life

You will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs, activities and student government. Getting involved in a club or other group is a great way to meet people and build your résumé.

Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS)

Civil Engineering Undergraduate Association (CEUS)

Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE)

Concrete Toboggan and concrete canoe teams

Promoting Opportunities for Women in Engineering (POWE)

Engineers Without Borders

Student Affairs Office
- Housed in the Engineering Student Centre; Academic Advisors provide assistance and information on program planning and academic success.

Salary Information*

Starting salaries will vary according to location, industry and employer.

Average annual salaries for new graduates
Canada: $50,000 - $60,000
United States: $55,300

Internship Salaries
$15 - $26 per hour

**Sources include: CACEE Campus Recruitment and Benchmark Survey (2011), NACE Salary Survey 2009, RIQ Enquete sur la rémunération directe des ingénieurssalariés du Québec (2012)*

Contact Us

McGill Engineering Student Centre (MESC)
Career Centre, Student Affairs Office & Peer Tutoring Services
Frank Dawson Adams Building, room 22
3450 University Street
Montreal, Quebec H3A 0E8
Telephone: 514-398-8100
Email: careers4engineers@mcgill.ca
www.mcgill.ca/careers4engineers