

BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING CAREERS

Biosystems Engineering at Auburn University is a major with three curriculum options: ***Biosystems Engineering, Ecological Engineering and Forest Engineering***. Although the required courses begin to vary starting from the sophomore year, at the beginning of a student's junior year, he or she must declare which option in Biosystems Engineering they wish to focus on. Each of these options train graduates to solve engineering problems that are needed for the necessities of life including the quality and health of the environment.

Strategies for a Successful Biosystems Engineering Career

- In order to better understand the Biosystems Engineering discipline and gain valuable experience, students are encouraged to participate in a co-op program, internship or part-time position, summer job, shadow a professional, or work as an Undergraduate Research Assistant under a professor in the Biosystems Engineering department.
- A career as a Biosystems Engineer will typically entail a combination of working outdoors as well as in an office setting.
- Successful engineers will have excellent verbal as well as written communication skills for making presentations and writing technical reports.
- Engineers should be able to understand the functionality of components and the role they play in an integrated biological system.
- A successful engineer will work well in a team setting.
- Joining professional societies such as the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) and Society of American Foresters (SAF), even as an undergraduate, will provide beneficial networking and contacts as well as keep the engineer informed of current research in related fields. There may even be opportunities to participate in a student branch organization of professional societies that will allow for networking among students from across the region and nation.
- Because engineering practices are constantly evolving, continuing education is very important.
- All engineers are encouraged to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam during their junior or senior year as an undergraduate. Once the exam is successfully passed and an undergraduate degree is obtained, the engineer is allowed to practice as an "Engineering Intern" (EI) and after four years of work experience under a professional engineer, he or she is eligible to sit for the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam. *For more information visit www.ncees.org.*
- A B.S. degree in Biosystems Engineering provides a solid basis for practicing in the private sector or a government agency as well as pursuing an advanced engineering degree (M.S. or Ph.D.).
- For some, a B.S. degree in Biosystems Engineering provides a foundation for pursuing a professional degree in Business Administration (MBA), Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Law.