



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK

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TO: Dr. Emily A.A. Dow, MHEC Assistant Secretary of Academic Affairs

RE: Concerns regarding Cecil College's Proposed Associate of Science in Civil Engineering degree program

The A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland has reviewed the package submitted by Cecil Community College requesting an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Civil Engineering. While the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and the Clark School administration applaud Cecil on taking the lead to address the needs of transfer students, the Clark School would like to share our concerns.

Our principal concern is that this program is misleading to students in that it inherently implies that graduates will have expedited transfer into and progress through a four-year civil engineering program. We perceive this as false advertising, as this would certainly not be the case for our civil engineering program at College Park. Specific concerns are:

1. The proposed AS in Civil Engineering program does not include a single civil engineering-specific course in its curriculum.
2. The proposed learning outcomes are not specific to civil engineering.
3. The proposed curriculum only includes a portion of the first two years of prescribed coursework in our program. Students transferring from Cecil College's proposed AS in Civil Engineering would still need to take ten credits of freshman and sophomore civil engineering coursework: ENCE 100 Introduction to Civil Engineering, ENCE 200 Civil Engineering Computation, ENCE 201 Engineering Information Processing, and ENCE 215 Engineering for Sustainability. Transfer students would also need to take a third science course (BSCI 160, ENSP 101, or GEOL 100) and perhaps MATH 241 Calculus III.
4. The proposed curriculum includes a course on thermodynamics, which is not required for our civil engineering program.
5. It is not clear that all of the courses in the AS program have been approved for transfer credit (e.g., PHY 217, PHY 218, and MAT 246).

In summary, graduates of Cecil College's proposed AS in Civil Engineering would not have any clear advantages over graduates from pre-engineering AS programs at other community colleges for expedited transfer and progress in the UMCP civil engineering program.

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