

From: Rob Griffin <rob.griffin@rice.edu>
Date: December 1, 2015 at 4:39:08 PM CST
To: ceeug@rice.edu
Subject: Recent changes to the CEVE curriculum

Dear CEVE Undergraduate Students,

The faculty continually strive to improve our curricular requirements and offerings based on accreditation requirements, changes in the field, changes in course availability, and feedback we receive from multiple stakeholders (including you based on ASCE/Chi Epsilon town halls, employers, graduate schools, review panels, etc.). As such, we would like to clarify recent changes to the CEVE curriculum. The General Announcements (GA) are only edited once per year, and even though one of the changes listed below was made prior to the start of this academic year, the changes may not be reflected in the GA currently available due to delays in scribing. What you should keep in mind is that students are bound to the GA from their matriculation year or from their graduation year. That means that students who matriculated in 2012 and are currently seniors (for a traditional 4-year program) are bound by the GA from either 2012-2013 or 2015-2016 (when it is updated and available).

Two significant changes have been made to the curriculum in the past 6 months; these have been announced, but we wish to do so again to make sure everyone has this important information. It will also appear on the department webpage. Because these changes were made relatively recently, they may not appear in the GA.

1. CEVE 401 (Environmental Chemistry) is no longer required for all students. CEVE 401 with laboratory is required for all BSCE students specializing in Areas I or II. Because of accreditation requirements, all students must take a CEVE laboratory course. For students specializing in Areas III or IV, that course is CEVE 470 (Soils). For students in Areas III or IV, CEVE 401 can be used as an Area I course. For students in Areas I and II, CEVE 470 can be used as an Area IV course.

2. Previously, nine credits of Recommended Electives and six credits of Free Electives were listed for the BSCE. The description of this is now all Free Electives - meaning that students must now take 15 total credits of free electives to fulfill degree requirements. However, it is very strongly recommended, though not required, that students use this freedom to enhance their knowledge in an area relevant for their future career, even if the coursework is outside of CEVE.

Because these changes are reflected on current departmental advising documentation, we would encourage students to follow these rules, even if they are graduating in 2016. To ensure that all students will meet registrar/GA graduation requirements, you can work with an Area advisor to request an exception/substitution if need be. Because the previously named "recommended" electives were approved by the Department at the time of graduation certification, the only issue should be for any current seniors who have not taken CEVE 401.

Please let any of the Area advisors (Drs. Bedient, Dueñas-Osorio, Nagarajaiah, or Tomson) or me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Please note that Dr. Tomson is on sabbatical for the Fall 2015 semester so any questions specifically for him should wait until January or be sent to me in the meantime.

Thanks and good luck with the end of your semester.
Rob

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