Admissions Information
Application forms are available from:
UT Office of Undergraduate Admissions
320 Student Services Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-0230
Phone: 865-974-2184
Online: admissions.utk.edu
What is Industrial Engineering?

While other types of engineers design things, industrial engineers design the systems that enable those things to work effectively. Industrial engineers design, install, improve, and control large, complex systems that include the integration of people, materials, machines, and facilities, with wide-ranging applications including:

- manufacturing
- healthcare
- transportation
- retailing
- construction
- entertainment
- public service
- finance
- logistics

As companies adopt management philosophies of continuous productivity and quality improvement to survive in the increasingly competitive world market, the need for industrial engineers is growing. The industrial engineering field is also one of the fastest-growing professions in the US. If you would like specific information on salaries and career opportunities, visit the UT Career Services website at www.career.utk.edu or the US Bureau of Labor Statistics website at www.bls.gov/oco/ocos027.htm.

Do You Have the Attributes of an Industrial Engineer?

Industrial engineers are problem solvers who use their expertise to apply the following principles to the solution of large, difficult, multi-faceted, often multi-disciplinary problems in challenging environments:

- mathematics
- computer technologies
- engineering design
- science
- statistics

The skills required for the industrial engineering field frequently lead to rapid progression in management and leadership positions.

- Leadership—Do you enjoy taking the lead on guiding teams to the solution for a specific problem?
- Self-starter—Are you strongly motivated, and do you show initiative?
- Problem-solving aptitude—Do you like to take things apart to see how they work?
- Creativity—Do you have an inquiring mind, always thinking about how things can be improved?
- Communications skills—Can you write and speak well? Are you a persuasive debater? Can you deliver a polished presentation to sell your point of view?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are off to a good start because you may have what it takes to become a great industrial engineer!

UT’s Industrial Engineering Program

The preparation that you will receive through the UT College of Engineering’s industrial and systems engineering academic program is the first step toward a new career. The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) uses active learning as an alternative to traditional lectures. As a student, you can expect classes that will personally involve you in real-world problem solving, help you communicate your ideas, engage you in personal interactions through teamwork, and involve you in the department laboratories. Professional student organizations offer the opportunity for leadership development.

Recent ISE graduates experienced a high job placement rate. Employers include Google, Amazon, Target, BMW, UT Medical Center, Schneider Electric, Eaton, Winn-Dixie, and many other companies.

A New Beginning

In 2013, the ISE department moved into new quarters—the John D.Tickle Engineering Building, which bears the name of an ISE alumnus who has excelled in the business world. This state-of-the-art building, provides exceptional opportunities for both classroom instruction and hands-on student research.

Industrial Engineering Produces Corporate Leaders

The industrial engineering curriculum, coupled with on-the-job experiences, provides a unique launching platform for career advancement leading to future corporate leadership. Some of the department’s successful alumni include:

- Joseph Cook, Jr. (BS/IE ’65), former Group Vice-President, Global Operations, of Eli Lilly and Company; currently Founder and Principal, Mountain Group Capital, LLC.
- Benita Fitzgerald Mosley (BS/IE ’84), current Chief of Organizational Excellence for the United States Olympic Committee; also Gold medalist in 100-meter hurdles, 1984 Olympic Games.
- Charles “Chad” O. Holliday (BS/IE ’70), former Chairman and CEO of DuPont, former Chairman of Bank of America, and current Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell; currently Chairman, National Academy of Engineering and NAE member since 2004.
- Susan Nolan (MS/IE ’92), former CIO of Perot Systems.
- Dwight Kessel (BS/IE ’50), former Knox County Executive, former President of Knox Air.
- Eric Zeanah (BS/IE ’84), President of American Accessories International.
- Charles “Chad” O. Holliday (BS/IE ’70), former Chairman and CEO of DuPont, former Chairman of Bank of America, and current Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell; currently Chairman, National Academy of Engineering and NAE member since 2004.
- Susan Nolan (MS/IE ’92), former CIO of Perot Systems.
- Joseph Cook, Jr. (BS/IE ’65), former Group Vice-President, Global Operations, of Eli Lilly and Company; currently Founder and Principal, Mountain Group Capital, LLC.
- Eric Zeanah (BS/IE ’84), President of American Accessories International.