Engineering Pathways Application Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Apply to the community college you plan to attend.
- The first step in applying to Engineering Pathways is to complete the application through your intended community college. Each community college has different processes and requirements. You should follow your community college’s process.
- If you have questions about the application process for your community college, you should contact the Admissions office at that community college.

Step 2: Complete assessment testing through the community college.

ALEKS PPL Math Placement Test
- ALEKS PPL is a required part of the Engineering Pathways application. All applicants must take a proctored ALEKS placement test at your community college.
- Follow your community college’s process to take the ALEKS PPL.
- ALEKS PPL is used to determine placement in math at your community college.
- Please note that the number of assessment attempts students are permitted varies by community college. If you earn below a 76 on the ALEKS PPL we strongly recommend that you take time to study and review the learning modules before retaking the assessment.
- If your selected community college does not offer the ALEKS PPL assessment or you have a final ALEKS PPL score of 75 or below please contact engineeringpathways@illinois.edu regarding your options.

Other Placement Tests
- Additional placement tests may be required for reading, writing, and/or ESL/ELS.
- All other placement tests need to be complete based on your individual community college’s policies.

Step 3: Submit the Engineering Pathways application.

Personal Information
This section includes your personal contact information, which is used to identify applicants and communicate with you about your application.

Preferred Name
- This is not required, but please provide your preferred name if it is different than your legal name.

First Name
- Please provide your legal first name. This will be used to match documents to your application.

Address
- Applicants must be residing in Illinois to participate in the program. Please provide an Illinois address.
**Email address**

- Please use an email address that you will have access to through the end of Summer 2023. If possible, avoid using your high school email address.

**Areas of Interest**

This section is used to help us understand which major(s) you may be interested in pursuing in Grainger Engineering. You are not applying directly to the selected major(s) and will be admitted as an undeclared student. You can select as many majors as you want. If you do not yet know which engineering majors you may want to study, you can select “Unsure at this time”.

You can find descriptions of each of the Grainger Engineering majors at [https://pathways.engineering.illinois.edu/participating-majors/](https://pathways.engineering.illinois.edu/participating-majors/) (click on the major name).

**Applicant Information**

*The Illinois community college you select for the application will serve as your primary institution for coursework. Select the community college you plan to attend.*

- Please note: While students attending any IL community college may now apply to participate in Engineering Pathways not all colleges offer the full sequences of required coursework. If a course is not available or not offered in the needed term it may be necessary for a student to complete coursework at another IL community college to fulfill program requirements.

**Enter your community college student ID**

- Enter the student ID number (not email address) provided to you by your community college. If you do not know your student ID number, please contact your community college.

**Enter your community college email address**

- Enter your official community college email address. If you do not know your community college email address, please contact your community college. DO NOT enter a personal or high school email address in this section.

**Academic History**

*Have you earned a score of 76 or higher on a proctored ALEKS PPL math assessment?*

- This question allows us to track issues with applicants’ math placement. You will also upload a copy of your assessment score in the Documents section.
- Each community college has their own guidelines for taking the ALEKS PPL math placement assessment. If you have not yet earned a 76 or higher on the ALEKS PPL, please save your information and stop the application. A 76 or higher score is required to enter the program for fall 2023.
Have you completed at least one year of high school chemistry with grades of C or higher?

- The standard pre-requisite of enrolling in General Chemistry I is completion of one year of chemistry in high school with C’s or better (or equivalent).

Have you completed or do you plan to complete any college coursework prior to enrolling in Engineering Pathways – this includes dual-credit high school classes?

- It is important for us to know if you will have any college credit when you enroll in Engineering Pathways. Please select “Yes” if you will have completed college credits through another college or university or dual-credit classes at your high school.
- There will be a section at the end of the application for you to add a transcript to show college coursework.

Grades earned in college course prior to enrollment in Engineering Pathways are a part of a student’s permanent college record and may impact program standing if minimum required GPAs cannot be achieved. Prior credit, including AP and dual enrollment, may not be used to satisfy technical coursework requirements for the program.

- This question is to confirm applicants’ understanding of program policy.
- Students should strive to earn A grades in any college/dual-credit coursework taken before entering the program.
- https://pathways.engineering.illinois.edu/academics/plans-of-study/

If you placed below college-level readiness in reading/writing/English assessment at your community college, please tell us more about your placements here. You can also upload the placement results in the Documents section. If there is anything else the review committee should be aware of regarding your academic history (e.g. addressing a low course grade), please explain.

- If you have anything in your academic record, such as low grades, you can provide information here. This question is not required, but we encourage you to provide any relevant information to help us to better understand your academic record.
- It is also important for advising that we be aware if you placed below college-level readiness in reading/writing/English assessment.

Writing Prompts

How would you benefit from participation in Engineering Pathways?

- This question is your opportunity to discuss your unique experiences, interests, and goals and how they make you a good candidate for the Engineering Pathways program. You can also use this question to explain why you feel that the structure of the Engineering Pathways will help you achieve your goals.
- Things to consider: What about your interests, experiences, and goals make you a good fit for Engineering Pathways? What do you know about Engineering Pathways and why do you feel it is a good option for you?
Reflect on something you would like to admissions committee to know about you.

- You can use this question to provide any information that you feel is important for the admissions committee to know about you that you have not yet shared.
- Things to consider: Is there anything that you want the admissions committee to know about you that you have not been able to explain in other sections? What is something important about you, as an applicant, that you feel is relevant to your application?

Demographics

- By entering this information, you help us meet reporting obligations. This information will not be used in your admission review but helps us to track the demographics of those participating in Engineering Pathways.

Document Submission

Upload a copy of your ALEKS PPL score. For a sample of the information which needs to be included on the document see https://pathways.engineering.illinois.edu/files/2022/01/ALEKSUploadSample.pdf.

If you have information to share (e.g. college coursework, GED completion certificate) which will not be provided on your high school transcript(s) please submit those documents here.

If you have earned grades in college coursework, please upload a copy of your college transcript. Unofficial college transcripts are acceptable.

Summary

Please review your application to ensure that all information is complete and accurate. Once your application is submitted, you will need to submit official high school transcripts to engineeringpathways@illinois.edu.