

## MIE Specific FAQs

1. What is the difference between ME and MET?
  - ME and MET topics are basically the same as far as spectrum of engineering content
  - MET is the applied path to engineering career. More emphasis on application of design.
  - ME is more traditional, theoretical, math heavy
  - ME and METs are getting hired for the most part with the job title of “engineer.” May be “technologist” in national labs.
2. What is an IMSE Cognate?
  - The cognate is a focused grouping of courses that IMSE students can choose based on their area of interest. It can include one lower-level course and 3 upper level classes.
3. Where do our graduates go to work?
  - Per the most recent survey we have conducted of our students:
    - i. Most MEs go to national research labs, aerospace industry, power and energy generation (including renewables and sustainable energy), construction,
4. How do students become involved in undergraduate research?
  - Look at webpage to see what research is being done. Contact faculty directly. Use Research website.
  - Listen in class for research opportunities, and watch for information coming out from department.
5. How easy is it for undergraduates to become involved in undergraduate research?
  - It takes some work on the part of the student. This depends on what opportunities are available
  - You have to be passionate about research to get involved in research
  - The student needs to
  - To implement: include in the 100 classes information on how to get involved in research.
6. How often do students get to use the lab equipment in Innovation Alley? Makerspace? What qualifications do students need to utilize the equipment in Innovation Alley? Makerspace?
  - Makerspace: available to all students whenever it is open, they can go in, work with Makerspace staff and use equipment.
  - Innovation Alley- use is through part of a class, must be qualified through classes you are taking, need to clear safety protocols and have permission of instructor
7. What tutoring is available to students struggling with coursework?
  - SmartyCats (can request a tutor, drop in group tutoring), Writing Center, Math & Stat., physics learning, chemistry, Engineering Mechanics Learning center, Instructor Office hours
  - Success starts with going to class, use help sessions
8. How do students get help with coursework?
  - Same as above. And use office hours
9. How available are the faculty to help students outside of classes?

- Use office hours, graders, and GTAs (especially in large classes)
10. How do students get in contact with faculty outside of class?
    - Use office hours, use channels of communication explained by faculty in syllabus
    - Check w/ MIE Office if need help connecting w/ faculty
  11. What professional/academic advising is available to students trying to decide on the right major for them to pursue?
    - Univ. Studies Academic Advising
    - Use professional advisors in MIE Office
  12. What professional/academic advising is available to students as they matriculate through the program?
    - Use Professional advisors in MIE Department
    - Faculty advising after 3<sup>rd</sup> semester
  13. What distinguishes this school from others in the region?
    - Land Grant University:
    - All programs are ABET accredited
    - Montana State is the only university in the country with Carnegie® classifications for very high research activity (R1), a very high undergraduate enrollment profile and a commitment to community engagement.
  14. Are classes taught by professors or graduate students / teaching assistants?
    - Most are taught by professors, grad students can be GTAs, grad students help run labs
  15. Are classes offered each semester?
    - In ME and MET all required classes are offered in both semesters
    - Intro classes are offered in fall only
    - Some Professional Electives are Fall only/ spring only.
    - IMSE are some fall only/spring only
  16. Am I able to get my first-choice classes?
    - If students follow timelines, they should get classes they need/want
    - Use MIE Office if have difficulty registering/making schedule
  17. What clubs and student organizations are available, and do most students participate?
    - There are 36 clubs within NACOE, and many more campus wide
    - ME has over 12 clubs that are actively supported, students participate in national competitions that are funded by the department
  18. What kind of computer is required (or most effective for use in MIE) by students? PC vs MAC
    - No preference. Computer labs have PCs, PCs work better with engineering software
      - i. Dedicated graphics card is a good idea
    - Word processing, email are main needs. Engineering software is provided in computer labs
    - Some engineering software is available to student for download while they are students.
  19. What is a typical class size?
    - Class size varies from 20-100 or 200. Foundational (math, physics, chemistry have large lectures). Engineering specific classes are smaller). As students move along in program, class sizes become smaller (20-40)
  20. Typically, how many years does it takes to graduate?

- Between 4 and 5 years
  - It is possible to graduate in 4 years if all classes are passed on the first attempt
  - Time varies with study abroad, internship, etc.
21. Can students transfer courses easily?
- Prior to attending MSU, use TR equiv. Guide. Ask MIE department if there are questions
  - Students must have engineering specific courses preapproved by the MIE department before they are taken outside MSU
  - It is important to have a sound understanding of foundational content to succeed in future classes.
22. How can students apply for internship or co-op?
- Internships are encouraged
  - ME and MET can earn credit once prerequisites are met
  - Students need to refer to Internship information on MIE website and work w/ Internship coordinator
  - Apply for internship at Job Fair (Fall/Spring)
23. Can they change majors?
- Yes- students can change majors at any time. Depending on when change is made, this may extend time to degree.
24. What minors are offered by MIE department?
- Aerospace, Building Energy Systems, Mechatronics, Materials, Engineering Mgmt, Financial Engineering
25. What minors outside the department are available to MIE students?
- Students can earn a minor in a different department (math, physics, modern language, or any)
  - Student should work with respective department
26. What minors are most often paired with MIE majors?
- Those offered through our department (see above).
27. For help with registration errors, full classes, or registration issues or to find the [MIE Registration Help Form](#)  
[https://www.montana.edu/mie/students/student\\_resources\\_documents/student\\_resources.html](https://www.montana.edu/mie/students/student_resources_documents/student_resources.html)

## General Campus and NACOE FAQ's

Is there a map of buildings on campus?

A map of campus can be found here: <https://www.montana.edu/campusmap/#/>

Where can I find important forms (like add/drop withdrawal for all NACOE students)?

<https://coe.montana.edu/advising/drop-form.html>

Where can I find forms to change my major / minor?

<https://www.montana.edu/registrar/curriculumchange.html>

A comprehensive list of many FAQs can also be found at:

General <https://www.montana.edu/askus/faq.html>

NACOE <https://coe.montana.edu/advising/faq/index.html>