

**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AND ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

1. *Will any student's ability to pursue his or her IE, SEE or GE degree be affected?* No. Students currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate IE, SEE, or GE degrees will be able to complete the degree they started, regardless of any changes made to degree requirements as a result of the merger. In certain cases, courses may be substituted or cross listed with the course originally required for a degree.
2. *Why "Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering" for the Department name?* This name was recommended by the Executive Committee of the College (1) to signal the College of Engineering's commitment to creating a top-five department in the existing industrial engineering rubric of major national rankings and (2) to reflect the growing importance of a systems engineering approach to the problems and opportunities of enterprise and entrepreneurship. Top departments that compete in the IE rubric are making changes in these latter directions, and GE undergraduate and SEE graduate missions have long been consonant with this focus.
3. *Why was the term "General" left out of the new department name?* To employers, students, and alumni familiar with GE, "General Engineering" was a longstanding and honored brand name, standing for broad, integrated technical and business knowledge capped by real-world experiences in one of the best senior design courses in the country. To those unfamiliar with the name, it was often confused with freshman engineering programs or catchall rubrics, and in repeated polling of graduating GE students over many years, a significant number of graduates recommended changing the department name, although there was never a strong consensus as to what that name should be. Additionally, the term "General" is especially confusing in a department attempting to create a world-class graduate and research reputation. Graduate education and research is necessarily specialized and the term "General" used to characterize a graduate department an oxymoron.
4. *Is there a commitment to merge graduate degrees into a common degree?* Not at this time. As the IESE Department begins to evolve and mature, the merger of separate degrees into a single degree is a possibility.
5. *Won't we lose the special character of the GE degree when we go to a single undergraduate degree?* No. The expectation is the combined IESE degree, to be developed later, will have two tracks: an IE track and an "enterprise systems engineering (GE)" track.
6. *Why not include the new degree with this proposal?* The process of developing and approving the new degree, and receiving ABET accreditation, will take several years. It is best not to delay reorganization for such a long period. The Department can make great progress while simultaneously working on a combined degree.
7. *Why are resources available to assist with growth of IE with this reorganization, but not for growth of IE within M&IE?* The goal is national leadership, and in that context, the areas of emphasis in the future will be consistent with areas of greatest interest in industrial and

enterprise systems engineering and the cost for the College to achieve this is significantly less because of leveraged resources and efficiencies within these two departments.

8. *What will happen to gift funds intended for IE and GE?* Gift fund agreements will adhere to the terms and restrictions of the gift, consistent with the donor's intentions.
9. *What's the bottom line for current and incoming students?"* For undergraduate and graduate students pursuing General Engineering or Industrial Engineering degrees, there will be NO CHANGES in the courses, the curriculum, or the title that appears on their diploma. The only difference is the name of the Department administering the degree is now the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, which will be administering both degree programs.
10. *I am a graduate student. Will I lose my office?* General Engineering graduate students will remain in their current offices. Industrial Engineering graduate students will move to the Transportation Building in August 2006.