

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2011-2012

Combined Plan Admissions

What are the requirements for guaranteed admission?

Candidate began at affiliate school prior to fall 2011	Candidate began at affiliate school in fall 2011
1. Full-time enrollment at an affiliated school for at least the past two years.	1. Full-time enrollment at an affiliated school for at least the past two years.
2. An overall <u>and</u> pre-engineering GPA of 3.0 or higher as calculated by Columbia.	2. An overall <u>and</u> pre-engineering GPA of 3.30 or higher as calculated by Columbia. Additionally, the minimum grade for each pre-engineering science or math course must be a B or better on the first attempt.
3. Three favorable recommendations: one each from your institution's Combined Plan liaison, a math and a science professor.	
4. Successful completion, by the end of the spring semester in which you are applying, of the specific prerequisite courses for your intended major in the Pre-Combined Plan Curriculum Guide .	
5. Completion (before entering Columbia) of the major and distribution requirements prescribed by your home institution for graduation.	

Can I apply if I do not attend an affiliate school?

Yes. You are permitted to apply, and your materials will be reviewed by the Combined Plan Admissions Committee. Please use the requirements listed above as *guidelines*, as the review process is very competitive. Since your school does not have an articulation agreement with Columbia, you are not eligible to apply under the guaranteed admissions program.

Can I apply if I have not fulfilled all of the requirements for guaranteed admission?

Yes. Your application materials will be reviewed by the Combined Plan Admissions Committee.

What courses are used to calculate my GPA?

Your pre-engineering GPA includes all of the Foundation Courses and Required Courses for Majors, as listed in our Curriculum Guide. Your overall GPA includes all courses you have completed up through the semester of your application.

Should I apply after three years or after four?

You should speak with the liaison at your school, who can advise you on an appropriate course of study and/or other institutional requirements that may determine when you will apply. While most students apply in their third year, you may apply in your fourth year and still be considered for guaranteed admission. **Students may apply only up to one year after they have graduated.**

Which classes count towards Columbia's prerequisite courses?

Please speak with the liaison at your school in order to determine which classes fulfill Columbia pre-engineering and major course requirements. Our Pre-Curriculum Course Descriptions describe the topics covered through our prerequisite courses, which may help you guide you and your school liaison.

Will classes that I've taken elsewhere (at other institutions and/or through study abroad) count towards Columbia's prerequisite courses?

Please speak with the liaison at your school, who should be familiar with your school's policy. **For students entering in Fall 2011 and later, all pre-engineering courses must be taken at the affiliate institution.**

What if a prerequisite class is not offered at my affiliate school?

Please speak with the liaison at your school to determine how the prerequisite class may be taken. Depending on the course, you may be able to take the class at another institution, through independent study and/or when you are at Columbia.

Why can't I apply to the Financial Engineering major?

Financial Engineering is a concentration in Operations Research that requires an application after one semester of study at Columbia. **Entrance in this program is very competitive.**

Are there quotas for the number of students admitted?

No. The Combined Plan Admissions Committee will review applications individually.

May I reapply to the Combined Plan program?

Yes. You will need to resubmit a new application along with an updated transcript and materials.

Do you offer a Combined Plan program for the M.S. in Engineering degree?

Yes. For more information, contact the Graduate Student Services office at seasgradmit@columbia.edu.

Combined Plan Financial Aid

When are financial aid forms due?

Forms should be completed **as soon as possible**, and no later than **March 1, 2012**.

Will I get the same financial aid package from Columbia as I received from my affiliate school?

As Columbia awards only need-based financial aid, your aid package may change. Please see the financial aid section on our website for more information.

Can international students get aid?

Financial aid is available for foreign students, **but it is limited**. Columbia **does not guarantee** that it will meet 100% of a foreign student's demonstrated financial need. A "foreign" student is one who has neither US citizenship nor US permanent resident status.

Do you offer fee waivers for the Combined Plan application?

Yes. Please obtain documents demonstrating eligibility from your Financial Aid office and contact the Combined Plan program by e-mail.

Combined Plan Academics

Will any advanced credits I earned in high school (e.g., AP or IB courses) transfer?

If your institution has awarded you any college credits for work done in high school, Columbia will accept this credit.

Please speak with your liaison to determine whether these credits fulfill Columbia prerequisite courses.

Will any credits I've earned elsewhere (at non-affiliate institutions and/or study abroad programs) transfer?

Please speak with the liaison at your school, who should be familiar with your school's policy. Generally speaking, if your school accepts credit from elsewhere, Columbia will accept that credit. Please be prepared to submit transcripts, syllabi and course descriptions for all courses completed at other institutions.

Will I be able to take non-technical liberal arts electives at Columbia?

Depending on your department and schedule, you may be able to take non-technical elective courses.

Do I have to take physical education classes?

No. Combined Plan students are exempt from the Columbia Physical Education requirement.

How many classes will I take in a typical Columbia Engineering semester?

Depending on the course of study, Combined Plan students will take five or six classes per semester (including laboratory supplements to classes).

Combined Plan Experience

How many Combined Plan students are at Columbia?

We have a total of approximately 150 students in the two years of the Combined Plan.

What kind of housing do Combined Plan students receive?

All first-year Combined Plan students are guaranteed housing in Carleton Arms, a dormitory-style residence at 362 Riverside Drive. Since housing is not guaranteed for the second year, students can use the Off-Campus Housing Office to find an apartment.

Can I pursue an internship while I am at Columbia?

Yes! Combined Plan students have access to the Center for Career Education, which assists students with finding appropriate internship opportunities and preparing for postgraduate careers.

What assistance is available to help students with their post-Columbia plans?

Combined Plan students have full access to The Center for Career Education, the Office of Preprofessional Advising, and the Office of Fellowships, which provide individual advising, programming and rich resources to help students explore and prepare for internships and jobs, graduate school, and fellowship programs. Graduating student survey results demonstrate that Columbia engineering students are equipped to pursue a variety of paths upon graduation.

I'm planning to visit Columbia. Are there any Combined Plan-specific things I can do?

In addition to a general information session and campus tour, you may be interested in our Engineering tour. Please visit our website to learn more and to RSVP, as spaces are limited.