

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

**BOBCAT ADVISING
CENTER**

**BOBCAT ADVISING CENTER RESOURCE FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:
1-3 UNIT LOWER LEVEL COURSES WITH NO PREREQUISITES**

NOTE: some courses may NOT be offered every semester and prerequisites could change.

Lower level classes at UC Merced are numbered 001-099 (e.g., HIST 016, MATH 005, WRI 001).

*Read class descriptions in the [Catalog](#): select **Course Descriptions** in the left column.*

Always check prerequisites or restrictions on classes you plan to take.

*To check prerequisites in the [Schedule of Classes](#)/open course list,
click the **title of the course** then the **Restrictions** tab and the **Prerequisites** tab in the left column.*

*Some courses may count for General Education (GE) Approaches to Knowledge or
GE Intellectual Experiences. See [GE requirements](#) in the current Catalog:
select **General Education** in the left column.*

Key to department abbreviations:

BCME	=	Biochemical & Biomolecular Engineering
BIOE	=	Bioengineering
CHE	=	Chemical Engineering
CHEM	=	Chemistry
CEE	=	Civil & Environmental Engineering
CSE	=	Computer Science & Engineering
EE	=	Electrical Engineering
ENGR	=	Engineering
ENVE	=	Environmental Engineering
GASP	=	Global Arts Studies Program
MATH	=	Mathematics
ME	=	Mechanical Engineering
MSE	=	Materials Science & Engineering
NSED	=	Natural Sciences Education
USTU	=	Undergraduate Studies
WRI	=	Writing Studies

- BCME 001 1 unit Biochemical & Biomolecular Engineering Seminar**
Required for Fall 2025 (and after) first year admits in the new Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering major. New class starting Fall 2025. Offered in fall semester only.
Cross-listed with (same course as) BIOE 001.
- BIOE 001 1 unit Bioengineering Seminar**
Required for first year Bioengineering majors. Offered in fall semester only.
Cross-listed with (same course as) BCME 001.
- CHE 001 1 unit Introduction to Chemical and Materials Engineering**
Required for first year Chemical Engineering majors. Offered in fall semester only.
Cross-listed with (same course as) MSE 001.
- CEE 001 1 unit Civil Engineering Seminar**
Required for first year Civil Engineering majors. Required for first year Environmental Engineering majors. Offered in fall semester only.
- CSE 001 1 unit Introduction to Computer Science**
Required for Fall 2025 (and after) first year admits in the Computer Science & Engineering major. New class starting Fall 2025. Offered in fall semester only.
- EE 001 1 unit Electrical Engineering Introduction**
Required for first year Electrical Engineering majors. Offered in fall semester only.
- ENGR 091 2 units Professional Development: People in an Engineered World**
Required for most first year engineering majors. Replaces the former ENGR 191.
- ENGR 096 2 units Human-Centered Research & Design**
ENGR 096 can be taken for 2 units or taken concurrently (in the same semester) with ENGR 097 for 4 total units. Open to all majors, including non-engineering.
For more information, see [Engineering Service Learning](#).
- ENGR 097 2 units Engineering Service Learning I**
ENGR 097 has a prerequisite of ENGR 096—or students can take ENGR 096 and ENGR 097 concurrently (in the same semester) for 4 total units. Open to all majors, including non-engineering. For more information, see [Engineering Service Learning](#).
- ENVE 030 3 units Evaluating Sustainable Spaces: Leadership in Energy, Environment & Design (LEED)**
Open to all majors and class years. Prepares students to sit for professional certification exam to earn LEED Green Associates and later LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) certification.

GASP 026A	2 units	Experimental Inter-Arts Ensemble
GASP 030A	2 units	Latin American Music Ensemble
GASP 030B	2 units	South Asian Music Ensemble
GASP 030C	2 units	Swing Band
GASP 030D	2 units	Nordic Music Ensemble
GASP 030E	2 units	Beginning Class Guitar
GASP 031A	2 units	Latin American Dance Ensemble
GASP 031B	2 units	South Asian Dance Ensemble
GASP 031C	2 units	Swing Dance Ensemble
GASP 031D	2 units	Nordic Dance Ensemble
GASP 034B	2 units	Art of Passion
GASP 034C	2 units	Poetry without Fear
GASP 041A	2 units	Performative Storytelling

ME 001 1 unit Introduction to Mechanical Engineering

*Required for first year Mechanical Engineering majors. Usually offered in fall semester only.
Per School of Engineering faculty 5/1/25, Fall 2025 first years in the new Aerospace Engineering (AE) major should also take ME 001 in Fall 2025. ME 001 has been approved as a Fall 2025-only degree substitution in the AE major since AE 001 will not be offered in 2025-26. AE majors who complete ME 001 in Fall 2025 (only) will not be required to take AE 001 in the future.*

MSE 001 1 unit Introduction to Chemical and Materials Engineering

*Required for first year Materials Science & Engineering majors. Offered in fall semester only.
Cross-listed with (same course as) CHE 001.*

MSE 010 2 units Intrigue of Everyday Materials in a High-Tech World

Open to all majors and class years. May also be of interest to students considering the [Materials Science & Engineering minor](#). Minor is open to both engineering and non-engineering majors.

MSE 030 3 units Materials and Human Civilization

Open to all majors and class years. May also be of interest to students considering the [Materials Science & Engineering minor](#). Minor is open to both engineering and non-engineering majors.

NSED 023	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Science in Elementary School
NSED 024	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Science in Elementary School
NSED 025	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Science & Math in Elementary School
NSED 026	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Science & Math in Elem. School
NSED 033	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Math in Elementary School
NSED 034	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Math in Elementary School
NSED 43	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Science in Middle School
NSED 44	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Science in Middle School
NSED 45	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Science & Math in Middle School
NSED 46	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Science & Math in Middle School
NSED 53	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Math in Middle School
NSED 54	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Math in Middle School
NSED 63	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Science in High School
NSED 64	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Science in High School
NSED 73	1 unit	Introduction to Teaching Math in High School
NSED 74	1 unit	Fieldwork: Introduction to Teaching Math in High School

The NSED courses are designed to be taken in a pair for 2 total units in the same semester. (For example: NSED 23 and 24 taken together, NSED 63 and 64 taken together, etc.)

NSED courses are open to all majors and all class years. Fieldwork is done in local schools.

NSED courses are appropriate for students interested in teaching any subject (not just science or math) at any level (elementary, middle, or high school).

The courses also count toward the [NSED minor](#) or [NSEC minor](#) for students planning to earn a teaching credential in the state of California.

USTU 010 1 unit Introduction to Undergraduate Studies

Usually restricted to first years. Some sections restricted to students in special programs or certain [Living Learning Communities](#) in the residence hall.

WRI 015 3 units Introduction to Writing Studies

Introduction to the field of Writing Studies. Required course in the [Writing Studies major](#). May also be of interest to students considering the [Writing Studies minor](#).

Talk with your Bobcat Advising Center academic advisor if you have questions about registering for these classes:

CHEM 001 3 units Preparatory Chemistry

Placement in CHEM 001 is based on the UC Merced [chemistry placement exam](#). CHEM 001 is a preparatory course designed for first years who are planning a science or engineering major and need additional refresher instruction in chemistry before enrolling in General Chemistry I (CHEM 002 & 002Lab) at UC Merced.

MATH 005A 1 unit Preparatory Calculus Workshop

New class starting Fall 2025. Requires concurrent enrollment in MATH 005 (Preparatory Calculus) in the same semester. Designed for first years who could benefit from additional refresher instruction to be successful in MATH 005.

USTU 012 1 unit Undergraduate Studies

Usually offered in spring semester as a continuation of USTU 010 and typically restricted to students in certain [Living Learning Communities](#) in the residence hall.