

FAQ for High School Students not Admitted to Engineering Majors at  
Jacobs School of Engineering, UC San Diego  
(Updated — ~~2016~~ 2018)

4. Right now during the admissions season, if the capped majors do not reach their caps, is there a way to get in through a waitlist?

A: No, the departments do not keep waitlists. If a department does not reach its desired number of students, then it will just take more students through the continuing student admissions process.

5. What are my odds of getting into Engineering through the major change process described above?

A: Historically, about 60% overall of students who have applied through the Engineering Major Change process have been accepted into a major in the Jacobs School of Engineering. But these numbers differ substantially from one major to another, and even within one major, they fluctuate substantially from one year to another. The percentage has ranged from about 20% to about 95% depending on major and year. The process is highly competitive, and you cannot count on getting in.

6. What GPA do I need to get in?

A: There is no GPA cutoff that is established in advance. Rather, the GPA that is needed will depend on the number of students who apply to a given major in a given quarter, and the target number of students that the department is able to add at that time. If the department has space available for 10 students and only 12 apply, then the GPA cutoff might turn out to be 3.0, whereas if the department has space for 10 students and 40 apply, then the GPA might turn out to be 3.9. So it is not the GPA that is determined in advance of the application process; it is the number of spots available and the GPAs of the applicant pool. Historically, the minimum GPA has ranged from about 3.0 to about 3.9, depending on major and year.

7. Can I apply through the Engineering Major Change process to more than one Engineering major?

A: Effective Fall 2017, you can only apply to one engineering major from among those accepting applications for a given quarter. However, if a non-engineering major is currently open for applications, you may submit a separate application directly to that department. Please check with the specific department for more information.

8. Who reviews these applications?

A: Each department reviews all applications from students who wish to transfer to their Engineering majors on a student-by-student basis.



13. What criteria were used to determine which incoming students get admitted into Engineering majors? Was it just GPA? Or?

A: Incoming freshmen to Engineering are evaluated, as with all UC eligible applicants, on a combination of factors, including:

- x Uncapped grade point average (maximum of eight semesters of approved honors, AP/IB HL, or UC transferable college-level courses)
- x Scores of all required examinations
- x Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)
- x Educational environment
- x Low family income
- x First-generation college attendance
- x Demonstrated leadership
- x Special talents, achievements, and awards
- x Volunteer/community service
- x Sustained participation in pr-3(ic)4(e)] TJ ET Q q 0.00000912 0 612 792 re W\* n BT

*f* Additional FAQ for MAE specifically

<http://mae.ucsd.edu/sites/maeweb.ucsd.edu/files/MAE%20Capped%20FAQ.pdf>

- o For NE, go to [http://ne.ucsd.edu/undergrad\\_programs/admissions](http://ne.ucsd.edu/undergrad_programs/admissions)
- o For SE, go to <http://se.ucsd.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-admission>

If you have additional questions, contact the department academic advising office directly.