

# Engineering vs. Engineering Technology

Engineering Technology is a field of study which focuses on the applications of engineering and modern technology, rather than the theoretical.

## *Engineering vs. Engineering Technology - ABET*

The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology describes the difference between engineering and engineering technology as: "Engineering and technology are separate but intimately related professions. Here are some of the ways they differ:

- Engineering undergraduate programs include more mathematics work and higher level mathematics than technology programs.
- Engineering undergraduate programs often focus on theory, while technology programs usually focus on application.
- Once they enter the workforce, engineering graduates typically spend their time planning, while engineering technology graduates spend their time making plans work.
- At ABET, engineering and engineering technology programs are evaluated and accredited by two separate accreditation commissions using two separate sets of accreditation criteria.
- Graduates from engineering programs are called engineers, while graduates of technology programs are often called technologists.
- Some U.S. state boards of professional engineering licensure will allow only graduates of engineering programs—not engineering technology programs—to become licensed engineers."

## *Engineering vs. Engineering Technology - NSPE*

The National Society of Professional Engineers describes the difference between engineering and engineering technology:

- "The distinction between engineering and engineering technology emanates primarily from differences in their educational programs. Engineering programs are geared toward development of conceptual skills, and consist of a sequence of engineering fundamentals and design courses, built on a foundation of complex mathematics and science courses. Engineering technology programs are oriented toward application, and provide their students introductory mathematics and science courses, and only a qualitative introduction to engineering fundamentals. Thus, engineering programs provide their graduates a breadth and depth of knowledge that allows them to function as designers. Engineering technology programs prepare their graduates to apply others' designs."

## *Engineering Technology Positions*

- Graduates acquiring a bachelor's degree or higher are hired to work as applied engineers or technologists. A technologist is a specialist who is trained to perform work in a field of technology
- Entry-level positions such as product design, testing, development, systems engineering, field engineering, technical operations, and quality control are all common positions for Engineering Technology graduates.

## *Professional Licensing*

- Some states may require Engineering Technology graduates to work in the field for a specified number of years before being able to obtain a Professional License (7 years in CT).
- In some states, Engineering Technology graduates may not be able to obtain a Professional License.
- See the below website for more information about the requirements in each state.  
[http://www.ncees.org/Licensing\\_boards.php](http://www.ncees.org/Licensing_boards.php)