Civil & Environmental Engineering

Town Hall

What is Civil Engineering?

Civil Engineers can be involved in designing and building structures like bridges and dams, but could also be responsible for roads, transportation and stoplights. Like all engineering majors at Iowa State, there are specializations within Civil Engineering. These are:

- Structural - design and build structures
- Transportation - Move not only people, but also goods and materials through the air, over land, and through water
- Geotechnical - deals with anything that goes into or deals with the ground
- Environmental - deals with water treatment, pollution prevention, and cleaning up our environment in new ways.

At Iowa State, you have a great exposure to hands-on laboratories that allow you to get excited about your desired field. For Civil Engineers, there are labs like a surveying lab that you take within your first couple of semesters. You are provided the equipment that practicing surveyors use and you actually get the first-hand experience. Also, there are great clubs such as concrete canoe club. Yeah, I know, that doesn't exactly sound like it would work, right? Well, the civil engineers actually design the concrete with special aggregates so that it is buoyant enough to actually float. Clearly, Civil Engineering gives you many options, and an opportunity to explore many career paths.

Numbers:

- Undergraduates: 595 students (Spring 2011)
- Graduate Students: 125 students (Spring 2011)
- Average starting salary: $48,600
- 99 % In-Profession placement rate within 6 months after graduation

Clubs and Projects:

- **American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)** – Hear from Civil Engineers in the field and the projects they’ve worked on, as well as partake in social activities.
- **Concrete Canoe** – Build a canoe out of concrete and race against students from other universities
- **Steel Bridge Competition** – students compete against other schools in a scaled bridge-building competition