

**Youngstown State University's  
Systemic Alignment of  
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)  
Some Questions and Answers**

**1. Why is the university reorganizing the engineering and the arts/science colleges?**

*Youngstown State University is reorganizing its academic structure to better address the growing importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the state and national levels.*

*Nationally, the number of jobs in STEM fields is growing at five times the rate of other occupations, according to the Council on Competitiveness, yet the number of Americans receiving college degrees in STEM fields is on the decline. Ohio currently ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the percentage of undergraduate students earning degrees in STEM fields, according to the Ohio Research Experiences to Enhance Learning. The Business Roundtable, an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies, and associated national groups recently released a report that calls for doubling the number of STEM college graduates by 2015. To meet this goal, Ohio colleges and universities must graduate 16,660 science and engineering students in 2015, up from 8,330 graduates.*

*Assembling the faculty and staff expertise in these disciplines into one unit will produce the synergy required to address this significant problem. It will also form units that can work together to enhance YSU's ability to successfully compete extramural funding and research projects.*

*Students will benefit from the new college restructuring as their major program will be part of an organization that is designed expressly to represent them and to address their specific academic needs. The colleges that result will be better prepared to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary work, internships, and undergraduate research.*

**2. Why now?**

*While it is true that YSU is currently working on a lot of important projects, the fact that there are two open dean's positions has prompted the return to the question as to whether the colleges should be reorganized.*

**3. How will the colleges be reorganized?**

*The departments of biology, computer science and information systems, chemistry, geology, mathematics and statistics, physics, civil/environmental and chemical engineering, engineering technology, electrical and computer engineering, and mechanical and industrial engineering will be organized into a college focusing on STEM disciplines.*

*The departments of economics, English, foreign languages and literatures, geography, history, philosophy and religious studies, political science, psychology, and sociology and anthropology will be organized into a college focusing on humanities and social science disciplines.*

**4. When will this occur?**

*A steering committee is currently being organized to fully address the details of the reorganization. The committee will also solicit particular help from Academic Senate, Academic Advisors, Student Affairs, Academic Departments, and individual faculty/staff. It is anticipated that the committee will have its work completed by July 1, 2007 and that the restructuring will occur by August 15, 2007.*

**5. How will the administrative structure of the new college be organized?**

*Although the steering committee will work out some of the specific details, the new college will be supervised by a dean, whose discipline is in one of the fields represented in the college. If the dean holds a doctoral degree in engineering, then the associate dean will be from a discipline represented by the college but outside of engineering. If the dean holds a doctoral degree in science, mathematics, or computer science, the associate dean will be from an engineering discipline.*

*Additionally, we expect that the four engineering and technology departments will be recognized within a subunit School of Engineering & Technology coordinated by the dean or associate dean, as appropriate.*

**6. Will the colleges still offer the same programs, degrees?**

*Yes, each and every program and degree will be continued.*

**7. Will any departments be discontinued or merged into a different department?**

*No, each and every department will remain as it currently exists.*

**8. Will faculty/staff be moved to different departments?**

*No, faculty/staff will remain in their current departments.*

**9. Will accreditation of any of the departments be impacted?**

*A recent conversation with the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) confirms that accreditation will not be affected by the merger. In fact, there are a number of universities that have the same college structure as YSU is planning.*

**10. What impact will there be on the students?**

*Current students will not notice any change in their programs, course offerings, or location of departments/faculty. Future students should have many more opportunities to participate in new programs, interdisciplinary activities, and expanded undergraduate/graduate research and internship opportunities.*

**11. Will the university make an investment in the new college?**

*Yes, the administration has included plans in its Master Plan and Capital Campaign to fund college planning and building enhancement.*