

Engineering Pathways Application Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Apply to the community college you plan to attend.

- The first step in applying to Engineering Pathways is to complete the application through your intended community college. Each community college has different processes and requirements. You should follow your community college's process.
- If you have questions about the application process for your community college, you should contact the Admissions office at your community college.

Step 2: Complete assessment testing through the partner college.

ALEKS Math Placement Test

- ALEKS is a required part of the Engineering Pathways application. All applicants must take a proctored ALEKS placement test at your community college.
- Follow your community college's process to take the ALEKS.
- We strongly recommend that you adequately study and prepare for the ALEKS to ensure proper math placement.
- A score of 76 or higher on a proctored ALEKS math assessment completed on/after September 1, 2025 is required to complete the Engineering Pathways application. If you have not earned a 76 or higher, you should not submit the application. You can take the ALEKS math assessment multiple times if allowed by your community college.
 - If you have an ALEKS score of 75 or below and have questions about how to move forward with additional assessment or the application, please contact engineeringpathways@illinois.edu.
 - If your community college does not offer the ALEKS Math placement, please reach out to engineeringpathways@illinois.edu for additional placement testing locations.

Other Placement Tests

- Additional placement tests may be required for math, reading, writing, and/or ESL/ELS.
- All other placement tests need to be complete based on your individual community college's policies.

Step 3: Submit the Engineering Pathways application.

Personal Information

This section includes your personal contact information, which is used to identify applicants and communicate with you about your application.

First Name

- Please provide your legal first name. This will be used to match documents to your application.

Preferred Name

- This is not required, but please provide your preferred name if it is different than your legal name.

Email address

- Please use an email address that you will have access to through the end of Summer 2026.
If possible, avoid using your high school email address.

Areas of Interest

This section is used to help us understand which major(s) you may be interested in pursuing at the University of Illinois. You are not applying directly to the selected major(s) and will be admitted as an undeclared student. You can select as many majors as you want. If you do not yet know which Engineering majors you may want to study, you can select “Unsure at this time”.

You can find more information about each of the majors here:

<https://pathways.engineering.illinois.edu/participating-majors/>.

Applicant Information

Student ID

- Enter the student ID number (not email address) provided to you by your community college. If you do not know your student ID number, please contact your community college.

Community College Email Address

- Please include your official community college email address. Admissions decisions will be sent to the email address used to create your application account, but it is important that we also have record of your community college email. If you are admitted and enroll in Engineering Pathways, all communication will be sent to your community college email address.

Assessment and Academic History

A score of 76 or higher on a proctored ALEKS math assessment completed on/after September 1, 2025 is required in order to complete the application for Fall 2026. If you have questions about ALEKS, your placement, options, and/or how to proceed please email engineeringpathways@illinois.edu to connect with program staff.

Have you earned a score of 76 or higher on a proctored ALEKS math assessment?

- This question will allow us to easily track applicants' math placement.
 - If you answer yes, you will upload a copy of your ALEKS assessment to the application.
 - If you answer no, you should not continue with the application until after you have received an adequate ALEKS score.
- Each community college has their own guidelines for taking the ALEKS math placement assessment. If you have not yet earned a 76 or higher on the ALEKS, we encourage you to study and prepare prior to taking/retaking the exam.

Have you completed at least one year of high school chemistry with grades of C or higher?

- The standard pre-requisite of enrolling in General Chemistry I is completion of one year of chemistry in high school with C's or better.
- Confirm with your community college that your high school coursework meets prerequisites to register General Chemistry I in this upcoming Fall semester.

Have you completed or do you plan to complete any college coursework prior to enrolling in Engineering Pathways – this includes dual-credit high school classes?

- It is important for us to know if you will have any college credit when you enroll in Engineering Pathways. Please select “Yes” if you will have completed college credits through another college or university or dual-enrollment classes at your high school. Include unofficial college transcripts for any earned/graded college credit.
- Students in Engineering Pathways will be required to complete the core curriculum for a letter grade, including calculus, chemistry, and physics, regardless of prior credit.

- There will be a section for you to add a transcript to show college coursework. If college transcripts are available, please add them to your application.

If there is anything else the review committee should be aware of regarding your academic history, please explain.

- If you have anything in your academic record, such as low grades, you can provide information here. This question is not required, but we encourage you to provide any relevant information to help us to better understand your academic record.

Short-Essay Prompts

How would you benefit from participation in Engineering Pathways?

- This question is your opportunity to discuss your interest in Engineering Pathways and why the program is a good fit for you. You can also use this question to explain why you feel that the structure of the Engineering Pathways will help you achieve your goals.
- Things to consider: What about your interests, experiences, and goals make you a good fit for Engineering Pathways? What do you know about Engineering Pathways and why do you feel it is a good option for you?

Reflect on something you would like to admissions committee to know about you.

- You can use this question to provide any information that you feel is important for the admissions committee to know about you that you have not yet shared.
- Things to consider: Is there anything that you want the admissions committee to know about you that you have not been able to explain in other sections? What is something important about you, as an applicant, that you feel is relevant to your application?

Demographics

- By entering this information, you help us meet reporting obligations. This information will not be used in your admission review but can help us to track the demographics of those participating in Engineering Pathways.

Document Submission

Required:

ALEKS assessment score

- All applicants are required to upload a copy of a proctored ALEKS assessment score of 76 or higher. The document must include your full name, the assessment date, the partner college, show that your assessment attempt was proctored, and the overall ALEKS score. You can find an [example ALEKS assessment document here](#)
- High school transcript that includes senior year fall grades and spring courses in progress or equivalent home school documentation.
- Unofficial college transcript for all completed/graded college courses.

Optional: If you have information to share (e.g. college coursework, GED completion certificate) which will not be provided on your high school transcript(s) please submit those documents.

Summary

Please review your application to ensure that all information is complete and accurate. Once your application is submitted, you or your high school counselor will need to submit official high school transcripts in the application or to engineeringpathways@illinois.edu.

Application Review

Student records are reviewed competitively. Submission of ALEKS, high school records, and application does not guarantee admission into the Engineering Pathways program. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis between February and April each year.