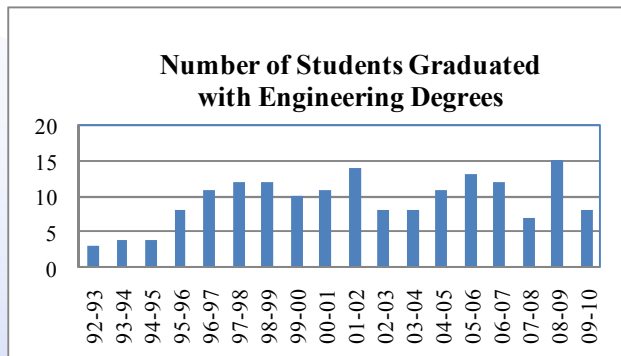


ABOUT THE IDEAS PROGRAM

The College of Engineering, in recognizing that American industries will require an ever increasing number of people in high technology areas and at the same time demanding diversity, initiated the Increasing Diversity in Engineering Academics (IDEAs) Program (formerly known as Minority Retention Program) in January 1990. The IDEAs Program is committed to increasing diversity and inclusive excellence engineering fields; enhancing enrollment, retention and graduation of engineering students — particularly students from underrepresented groups (African-Americans, Hispanics and American Indian).

CURRENT IDEAS PROGRAM PROFILE*

CLASS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Freshmen	57
Sophomores	39
Juniors	32
Seniors	28



* The fall semester of 2010.

IDEAS PROGRAM INCENTIVES

The success of the IDEAs Program relies and only relies on the success of its students. Student support is offered in a variety of ways to enhance academic, professional and personal development of program participants.

The following incentives are available to the IDEAs Program participants:

- Incentive Scholarships
- Team Intrusive Advising
- Permanent Study Center
- Tutoring Program
- Professional Mentoring
- Freshmen Transition Activities
- Structured Workshops and Field Trips
- Undergraduate Research Experience
- Outreach and Community Services

Besides the scholarships offered by the College of Engineering and each engineering department, IDEAs program participants are also eligible for the IDEAs Incentive Scholarships. If a student fulfills the contractual requirements, he or she can earn a scholarship of up to \$3,500 per academic year.

WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS

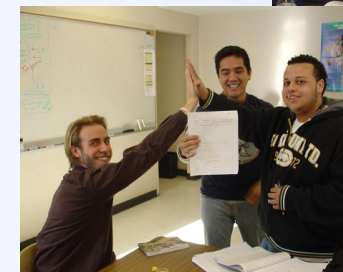
Various activities are designed to enhance the culture of diversity, academic success and professional development. Two or three workshops are provided every semester. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Dynamic speakers to discuss engineering professions and share inspiring stories;
- Field trips to local companies and meet engineers;
- Workshops on how to use graphing calculators/ MatLab/Microsoft Software;
- Workshops on money management; time management and stress management;
- Panels on college life, my co-op, my undergraduate research.

TUTORIAL STUDY CENTER

IDEAs tutorial study hall, located at Schrank Hall North 353, is a place to study and get individual assistance if needed. The IDEAs tutorial study center was launched in 1990 to offer a comfortable and functional learning environment

- Tutoring subjects include engineering core courses, mathematics, physics and chemistry.
- Individual tutoring and group sessions are both available based on demand.
- Tutors are selected from junior, senior and graduate students in the fields of engineering.
- The center is a place to meet upper-level classmates.
- The center is a place to collect more academic resources, such as scholarship, undergraduate research internship opportunities and job opportunities.
- The center is furnished with desks, chairs, tables, sofa, whiteboard, blackboard, printers and computers.





RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES (REU)

Program participants are encouraged to do undergraduate research. Students may publish papers with research advisers or mentors in peer-reviewed journals. Undergraduate research opportunities may include:

- Faculty support at the College of Engineering
- OSGC Junior or Senior Scholarship
- NASA Research Scholarship
- McNair Scholar Program
- National Science Foundation REU
- Summer Research Internship

To obtain further information about the IDEAs program, please contact:

Dr. Julie Zhao
Director, IDEAs Program
Schrank Hall North 360
Akron, OH 44325-3904
330-972-2823 Office
330-972-5162 Fax
zhao1@uakron.edu

<http://www.uakron.edu/engineering/beyond-the-classroom/ideas-program/index.dot>



College of Engineering, March 2011



College of Engineering

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN ENGINEERING ACADEMICS (IDEAS) PROGRAM

MINORITY ENGINEERING SEMINAR AND PEER GROUP CLASS

The Minority Engineering Seminar and Peer Group class (4100-120) is a one-credit elective course, offered every fall semester. The course provides an overview of disciplines and opportunities in engineering through weekly lectures, group discussions, learning-services and field trips. It also reinforces education/career choices and provides role models of successful minority engineers.

Course objectives:

- To motivate students toward achieving academic success in the field of engineering.
- To provide a variety of speakers who share their academic knowledge and experience about both academics and non-academic resources in the field of engineering.
- To facilitate interaction between students and faculty/staff members on campus, and among students, peers and alumni.
- To ensure a small group structure that provides information and promotes supportive relationships.

