Is there guaranteed admission for students from affiliate institutions?
For students entering an affiliate institution in Fall 2018 or earlier, guaranteed admission is available. Beginning with students entering an 2019 or later, admission will no longer be guaranteed. Columbia will review all applicants in a holistic and competitive review process. While we expect students to meet the guidelines provided in the agreement, we will also consider overall academic preparation and fit for Columbia. Note that references to guaranteed admission in the document is applicable only to students who are entering an affiliate institution prior to Fall 2019.

Should I apply after three years or after four? Should I pursue this program or a master’s degree?
Your liaison can best advise you on your appropriate course of study based on your educational and career goals. You may apply in either your third or fourth year and be considered for admission.

If I study abroad for a semester, will I still meet the requirement of being enrolled at my institution full time for three years?
Please speak with the liaison at your school, who should be familiar with your school’s policies. If the courses you take while abroad appear on your home institution’s transcript, you are a full-time student and your liaison approves by noting this in the recommendation letter, your time abroad will count toward your three-year residency requirement.

What are your admissions statistics? Are there quotas for the number of Combined Plan students admitted?
We do not release any admissions statistics for the Combined Plan Program. There are no quotas, as each application is reviewed individually. There are approximately 275 students currently on campus as part of the program.

Do you offer any fee waivers for admission?
Yes. You may submit documents demonstrating eligibility from your Financial Aid office via email to combinedplan@columbia.edu.

May I reapply to the Combined Plan program?
Yes. You will need to resubmit a new application with an updated transcript and materials. Please note that students reapplying will be considered in a competitive and holistic review process.

What courses are used to calculate my GPA?
Your overall GPA includes all postsecondary courses towards the degree at your affiliate institution. Your pre-engineering GPA includes all of the science and mathematics Foundational and Major-Specific courses listed in the appropriate pre-Combined Plan Curriculum Guide.

What if a prerequisite course is not offered at my school?
Please speak with your liaison to determine how you will fulfill this course. Depending on the course, you may be able to take the class at another institution or through independent study.

Will any advanced credits I earned in high school (e.g. AP or IB courses) fulfill my prerequisites? Will classes I’ve taken elsewhere (at other institutions and/or through study abroad) fulfill my prerequisites?
Please speak with your liaison. If the course appears on your home institution’s transcript and if your liaison approves by noting this in the recommendation letter, we will accept credit taken at other institutions. Official transcripts from all institutions attended are required. Please note that additional information on your school’s credit policies may be required as part of your application.

How many classes will I take in a typical Columbia Engineering semester? Will I be able to take non-technical liberal arts electives at Columbia?
Most students will take five or six classes per semester. All enrolled students will speak with an academic advising dean in the Center for Student Advising to plan out their courses. Depending on your department, you may be able to take non-technical elective courses.

Can I apply to the Financial Engineering major?
Students must have completed at least one semester at Columbia prior to applying to the Financial Engineering major within the Industrial Engineering and Operations Research department. Admission is managed by the department and is most competitive.

Can I double major in two engineering subjects while at Columbia?
Depending on your department and schedule, you may be able to take non-technical elective courses or complete a minor, but a second major is not available for Combined Plan students.

When do I declare a major? Can I change my major?
You must declare an engineering major at the time of application to Columbia. Change of major is not guaranteed and is unlikely after a decision is rendered.

What counts as a non-technical class?
Non-technical credit hours should help a student to learn perspectives and principles of the humanities and social sciences through discussion, debate and writing. Please note that non-technical electives are subject to the review of Undergraduate Admissions. Examples of these courses can be found on our website (https://bulletin.engineering.Columbia.edu/b-elective-nontechnical-courses).

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