Where do Electrical Engineering majors go?

According to the 2014 Graduating Student Survey (with a 38.9% response rate for undergraduates in the department):

• 82.2% of graduates are employed or going to graduate school.
  o 39.3% were employed
  o 42.9% had secure plans to attend graduate school

Examples of organizations that have hired Electrical Engineering majors in recent years:

Graduate schools that Electrical Engineering majors have attended in recent years:

• Massachusetts Institute of Technology
• Boston University
• Columbia University
• Cornell University

What can you do with a degree in Electrical Engineering?

Electrical Engineers design, develop, test, and supervise the manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment. Electrical engineers work in industries as diverse as telecommunications, energy and electric power, semiconductors, aerospace, bioengineering, manufacturing, education and research, transportation, and automotive. The electrical engineering major prepares students for careers in engineering, in related mathematically-intensive fields, and further graduate education. Use CCE’s Engineering Industry pages and the Electrical Engineering department’s career pages to learn more about ways to apply the degree.
What do employers want?

In addition to your technical skills, employer seek candidates with the:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Electrical Engineering majors bring?

The curriculum helps you to develop the ability to do the following, including:

- Apply knowledge of mathematics, science, and engineering.
- Design and conduct experiments, as well as to analyze and interpret data.
- Design a system, component, or process to meet desired needs within realistic constraints.
- Function on multidisciplinary teams and communicate effectively.
- Identify, formulate, and solve engineering problems.
- Use the techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice.

What if I’m an International Student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) students can receive a 17-month extension of optional practical training after the initial period of authorized post-completion OPT. Students with questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO), view ISSO’s Work Opportunities for Students in F-1 Status site (columbia.edu/cu/isko/visa/F-1/index.html) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.