

August 5, 1998

**The Dean of Engineering**  
124 Perkins Hall  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-2000  
(423) 974-5321  
FAX (423) 974-8890

**Graduating Seniors in  
Aerospace, Chemical, and Mechanical Engineering**

**If you are graduating Fall 1998 or Spring 1999, please read the following message carefully!!!**

**Please return the enclosed form by August 27.**

As you may know, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) mandates that graduates in the various academic majors be tested periodically so that the collective performances of current classes can be compared with the national norms and past levels of performance. If our students in a particular major do well comparatively, UTK benefits financially through the state's Performance Funding program. If we do poorly, the institution suffers a monetary penalty.

Graduating seniors in aerospace, chemical, and mechanical engineering are scheduled for testing during academic year 1998-99. You are receiving this notice because our records show that, based upon the number of semester hours completed, you may be in a position to graduate during this academic year. **If you are indeed scheduled to graduate Fall 1998 or Spring 1999, your participation in this major field testing program is required. In fact, since this test is mandated by THEC, completion of the test becomes a requirement for graduation during the 1998-99 academic year.**

We will again use the Fundamental of Engineering (FE) exam as our major field test. Thus, you can accomplish two things with one effort. First, you can assist your department in complying with the THEC mandate to compare performance of our graduates with graduates of other institutions. Second, you can complete the first step in obtaining registration as a professional engineer. And, since this is a mandated test, we will reimburse you for the cost of the exam.

**This message is particularly urgent if you are planning to graduate Fall 1998.** If this is your situation, please stop by Perkins 101 or your departmental office and pick up an FE exam application form to be submitted to the Tennessee State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners. **The deadline for registering for the fall exam is September 1, 1998.** You can send your completed application form directly to the State Board provided you do so in time for the application to arrive before the September 1 deadline. My assistant, Jo Ann Loy in 101 Perkins Hall, will also collect completed

application forms and examination fees for the fall exam through August 31. WE will send these “last minute” forms in an over night bulk shipment to meet the State Board’s application deadline. Let us know if there is any other way that we can help you with the process of getting your FE exam application submitted. The deadline for the spring exam is February 1, 1999.

The cost of the exam is \$50 in the form of a cashier’s check or money order, which each student submits with the application form. WE will reimburse graduating seniors in AE, ChE, and ME for the cost of the exam. Your reimbursement will not be forthcoming, however, until you have actually participated in the test.

Finally, we will make available FE reviews to help you prepare for the exam. Announcements promoting these reviews will be posted. Look for them on various bulletin boards. Let me encourage you to participate in an appropriate review so that you can perform well on the exam. By the way, the pass rate for all College of Engineering students on the last FE exam was an excellent 81.1 percent.

I encourage you to promptly attend to the details of applying to take the FE exam prior to your projected graduation date. Your enthusiastic participation in the 1998-99 FE testing is important to both the reputation of our College of Engineering and your professional development as an engineer. If you have questions, please call Jo Ann in my office, 974-3608.

To aid us in our planning and preparation, please complete and return the attached form by August 27. Send by mail to the address shown on the form, or drop the form off with Jo Ann in Perkins 101.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Tompkins  
Associate Dean

Attachment

C: Jerry E. Stoneking, Dean  
College of Engineering  
Nancy T. McGlasson, Director  
Academic Affairs, Program and Evaluation Services