

**University of Houston**  
**Cullen College of Engineering and College of Technology**  
**Proposed Merger and Renaming**

The University of Houston requests approval to merge two colleges: the Cullen College of Engineering and the College of Technology. The merged college will be named the Cullen College of Engineering.

**Why Merge?**

Aligned with the goals of our strategic plan to become a Top 50 public university, the University of Houston explored the possibility of creating a single college to house our current and future academic programs in the engineering and technology disciplines. A review of the top 100 universities ranked by U.S. News & World Report revealed that in those institutions with academic programs in both the *Engineering Technologies* and *Engineering Related Fields*, these programs were housed within a single college commonly named the College of Engineering.

In merging the Cullen College of Engineering and the College of Technology, the University seeks to create additional opportunities and benefits for students and faculty through leveraging joint resources, reducing duplication, and increasing alignment with the needs of employers. A unified “institutional brand” for all UH engineering and technology programs will also make the University more easily recognizable at the state, national, and international levels. For example, combining engineering and technology programs in 2021 would have ranked UH the third largest in the State of Texas surpassed only by Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin. Total enrollment for all programs impacted by the proposed merger exceeded 9,000 in Fall 2021.

*Student Benefits:* A merged college is expected to contribute to enrollment growth in both undergraduate and graduate programs by providing students with a wide array of degree program options. Synergies gained by the development of multiple completion pathways and the sharing of common courses will also help enhance retention and graduation rates for programs, departments, and the merged college. The merger will also allow for the development of new programs that incorporate both the theoretical and practical views of the discipline. Students will further benefit through access to combined career resources leading to greater employment opportunities for graduates.

**Consultative Review Process**

To explore a potential merger of the Cullen College of Engineering and the College of Technology, we engaged in a collaborative review process guided by the following principles: (1) the university’s commitment toward student success and national competitiveness must be maintained; (2) the change has to make programs in both colleges stronger; and (3) the process should be transparent and inclusive.

We began with meetings of upper administration, college deans, and college leadership teams. Based on the feedback from both colleges, it was determined the question was worthy of further

exploration and required wider input. A cross-college task force was then formed and charged with gathering input from relevant stakeholders and completing a SWOT analysis. At the conclusion of the analysis, the decision was in favor of a merged entity. With this decision, multiple town hall meetings were held to seek additional input from the UH community. A transition committee was then formed to identify implementation considerations related to governance, faculty and staff advancement, student success, and branding.

### **Administrative Structure**

The merged college will be named the Cullen College of Engineering. The College of Technology will reside within the Cullen College of Engineering as a Technology Division which will house the four departments currently in Technology:

- Construction Management
- Engineering Technology
- Human Development and Consumer Sciences
- Information and Logistics Technology

The seven departments within the current Cullen College of Engineering (Biomedical Engineering, Brookshire Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering) will not change.

### **Next Steps**

If approved, we will work to ensure a smooth implementation of the proposed merger and realizing expected benefits. The process of accreditations in the two colleges is largely expected to remain the same with minor adjustments.