

## PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE A DEGREE PROGRAM

**Proposals will only be accepted electronically as a Word document to the Office of the Provost when submitted to [provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu](mailto:provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu)**

|                              |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Degree Title:                | Bachelor of Science Construction Engineering                                            |
| Academic Program:            | Construction Engineering                                                                |
| Academic Plan:               | Construction Engineering                                                                |
| Number of Credits:           | 127                                                                                     |
| Department(s) or Program(s): | Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and School of Design and Construction |
| Campus(es):                  | Pullman                                                                                 |
| College(s):                  | Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture                                         |

|                |              |                          |                                                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Contact Name:  | K. Sivakumar | Email Address:           | <a href="mailto:siva@wsu.edu">siva@wsu.edu</a> |
| Contact Phone: | 509-335-4969 | Proposed effective date: | May 15, 2025                                   |

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| <b>Rationale for discontinuing the degree:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>The decision to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering (BS ConE) program is due to a combination of factors, including declining enrollment, resource allocation, and the evolving nature of the construction engineering field. We have carefully evaluated these factors and believe that it is in the best interest of our students to reallocate resources and offer programs that better support current industry demands.</p> <p><b>Low Enrollment:</b> Over the past several years, we have seen a significant decline in the number of students enrolling in the BS ConE degree program. Despite our best efforts to promote the program and offer of scholarships and incentives, the demand for this particular degree has steadily decreased.</p> <p><b>Resource Allocation:</b> In order to sustain a successful degree program, it is critical to allocate significant resources, such as expert faculty, world-class facilities, and dedicated funding. Due to the modest number of students enrolled in the Construction Engineering program and COVID-related university budget restrictions, we had to make difficult choices about how to allocate our limited resources. Our priority is to maintain the high quality of education in the well-established civil and environmental engineering and construction management programs.</p> <p><b>Evolving Industry Trends:</b> The field of construction engineering has been undergoing rapid changes in recent years, with a growing emphasis on sustainability, technology integration, and project management. With limited resources to keep up with these evolving industry trends, it is increasingly challenging to sustain a program that allows our graduates to continue to be competitive in the job market.</p> <p><b>Career Opportunities:</b> We understand that many of our Construction Engineering students chose this program with the expectation of pursuing rewarding careers in the field. However, the job market for graduates in this program has become increasingly competitive, and we believe that by discontinuing the program, we can better focus on providing our students in this program with alternative opportunities that better support current industry demands.</p> <p><b>Implications for currently enrolled students? Include the number of students who will be affected. A teach-out plan is also required as an attachment.</b></p> |

The BS ConE program is committed to supporting our current Construction Engineering students during this transition period. Students currently enrolled in the program will be advised to complete their requirements in the Construction engineering degree program. We will work closely with each student to develop individualized academic plans that allow them to complete their degree requirements in a timely manner. Additionally, we will provide guidance and resources to help them explore alternative degree programs that align with their career goals and interests.

We have a total of 35 students currently in the BS ConE program. Of these, 31 students have been admitted to the major and 4 students have academic interest in the program.

☒ **Attach the teach-out plan.**

Explain how the decision to discontinue the degree was reached; how specifically all faculty and staff were notified, engaged in the decision, and given the opportunity to provide feedback.

The decision to discontinue the degree program was reached based on an analysis of the factors listed above in 2023 by the then Dean (Dr. Mary Rezac), then department chair (Dr. Xianming Shi) and Director, School of Design and Construction (SDC), Jason Peschel. Faculty and staff in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and SDC were informed of the decision by the then Dean in an October 2023 meeting. The responses from the meeting were mixed (some for, some against, and some that didn't know the program even existed) though the then Dean (Dr. Mary Rezac) provided a very thorough and detailed explanation of the situation and resulting decision.

Current interim chair (CEE), Dr. Antonio Carraro, had discussions about this decision with:

- (1) former CEE department Chair and with the Chair of the CEE/ConE Advisory Boards (7/18/24);
- (2) VCEA Interim Dean, Dr. Partha Pande, former CEE department Chair, former CEE Associate Chair, SDC Director, and SDC faculty member (7/23/24);
- (3) VCEA Interim Dean, SDC Director, CEE faculty member (8/7/24);
- (4) CEE faculty member, SDC faculty member (8/28/24);
- (5) CEE faculty member (8/23/24);
- (6) SDC Director, CEE faculty member (9/12/24);
- (7) VCEA Interim Dean, SDC Director, CEE faculty member (9/16/24);
- (8) All CEE faculty and staff at CEE Department Meeting (9/19/24);
- (9) VCEA Interim Dean, ConE Advisory Board, SDC Director, CEE faculty member (10/14/24);
- (10) VCEA Interim Dean, CEE/ConE Advisory Boards (12/3/24).

Describe how the discontinuation may impact other degree programs, departments, colleges, or campuses. How will the impact be accounted for?

Discontinuation of the BS ConE program will not impact other degree programs, departments, or colleges. Some students currently enrolled in the BS ConE program could switch to a different/related degree program: BS Civil Engineering, BS Construction Management or some alternate degree programs. Both BS Civil Engineering and BS Construction Management programs are within the Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture (VCEA) and will use their usual criterion to admit BS ConE students intending to switch their major. Based on similarity of coursework in the first two years of the Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering programs, transfer to the BS Civil Engineering program would be relatively easy.

The BS ConE program is currently offered on the Pullman campus only and will not impact other campuses

If applicable, describe how the respective external stakeholders (e.g., advisory or alumni groups) were consulted in this decision:

Advisory Board members met with Mary Rezac, Xianming Shi and Jason Peschel during their Fall 2023 board meeting on the Pullman campus. There was a specific meeting/session where the program discontinuation decision was discussed and reasoning/justification was provided.

Dr Antonio Carraro met with the CEE Advisory Board meeting Oct 14, 2024. Board members were informed of the decision to discontinue the BS Construction engineering program. They were on board with the decision and with providing a Construction emphasis within the existing BS Civil engineering program.

**SIGNATURES: The names typed below certify that the relevant academic and campus officials have reviewed and approved this proposal:**

|                              |                                               |       |              |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Chair or Director Signature: | Antonio Carraro (CEE) and Jason Peschel (SDC) | Date: | Dec 18, 2024 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|

|                 |              |       |              |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| Dean Signature: | Partha Pande | Date: | Dec 18, 2024 |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|--------------|

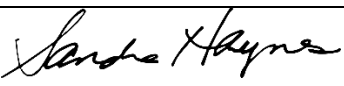
*Signatures are required from all Chancellors (or delegates). A signature denotes endorsement if the degree will be offered and/or impact the respective campus. A signature will also denote receipt of notification if the degree is not being offered and/or will impact the respective campus. If needed, a signature abstention box is provided immediately below.*

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|-------------------------------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Everett Chancellor Signature: | Paul Pitre | Date: | Jan 7, 2025 |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|-------------|

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| Global Chancellor Signature: | David Cillay | Date: | Jan 2, 2025 |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|

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| Pullman Chancellor Signature: | David Cillay | Date: | Jan 2, 2025 |
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| Spokane Chancellor Signature: | Daryll DeWald | Date: | Jan 10, 2025 |
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| Tri-Cities Chancellor Signature: |  | Date: | 12.19.24 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

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|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Vancouver Chancellor Signature: | Mel Netzhammer | Date: | Jan 2, 2025 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|

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|-----------------------------------------------|
| Comments regarding abstention of signature(s) |
| <br><br><br><br><br>                          |

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[provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu](mailto:provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu)

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| Provost's Office<br>Signature: |  | Date: |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|--|

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|                                  |  | Date:         |  |