This FAQ addresses questions associated with Civil and Environmental Engineering at Brown University

**Why is civil engineering being phased out?** Maintaining an ABET accredited program in civil engineering requires meeting several criteria that the School of Engineering finds increasingly difficult to meet. The most difficult of these is the requirement that several of the upper level courses be taught by practicing, licensed civil engineers. While the faculty in the School of Engineering are world-renowned experts in their disciplines, Brown no longer has the critical mass of licensed civil engineers that allows us to satisfy this requirement.

**I am already at Brown. Can I still get my degree in civil engineering?** Yes. The ABET-accredited program will be maintained without change for all students who entered Brown in September 2012 or earlier.

**I am considering attending Brown, and was planning on concentrating in civil engineering – should I still come to Brown?** Absolutely! Although entering freshmen will not be able to get their degree in civil engineering, Brown has six other ABET-accredited programs (biomedical, chemical and biochemical, computer, electrical, materials and mechanical). Brown also has non-accredited Sc.B. programs in engineering-physics and (as of April 2013) environmental engineering (more on that further down the FAQ).

**I was interested in the structures option in civil engineering. What program should I look at?** The structural engineering program in civil engineering has been moved “wholesale” to the “structural mechanics” option within the ABET-accredited mechanical engineering program.

**How does the new structural mechanics option within mechanical engineering differ from the civil engineering degree?** The structural mechanics option within mechanical engineering is almost identical to the structural mechanics option in the departing civil engineering program. The only differences are the name of the degree, and the fact that we will no longer teach “Soil Mechanics” and the “Civil Engineering Capstone Design” course. In its place, students can take many other relevant courses, and, of course, the “Mechanical Engineering Capstone Design” course.

**If I take the structural mechanics option in mechanical engineering, will I still be able to apply for jobs in structural design and analysis?** We have spoken with representatives from many firms that have hired our civil engineering graduates. The vast majority of these companies, including construction companies, engineering analysis firms and consulting firms have indicated that they will be as happy to hire mechanical engineers with the structural mechanics background as civil engineers. However, there are some careers options that do require a degree in civil engineering - for example working for the state inspection services. Those
options will, of course, not be possible without an accredited civil engineering degree. Other career options, however, will become available with the mechanical engineering degree.

I was interested in the environmental planning option in civil engineering, what program should I look at? You have three main choices: The first is to look at the “Environmental Issues and Pollution Prevention” option in chemical and biochemical engineering. The second is to look at the “Energy Conversion” option offered in mechanical engineering. Lastly, you should look at the new environmental engineering concentration that was announced in April 2013.

What about Environmental Engineering? In April 2013, Brown University approved a new Sc.B. concentration in environmental engineering. This will be a rigorous engineering degree, similar in scope and requirements to our other Sc.B. programs. The goal of the program is to prepare students for careers in engineering, science and technology with a focus on solving program related to the natural and built environment. The new degree is currently un-accredited, although it as extensive and rigorous as our other accredited degrees, and is designed to be fully compatible with ABET requirements. Accreditation by ABET may be sought in the future, but there are no firm date for this. More details about the environmental engineering program may be found at http://brown.edu/academics/engineering/undergraduate-study/concentrations/environmental-engineering.