UW System approved a new comprehensive major in Materials Science and Engineering (MS&E) in June of this year. Materials Science faculty have been developing curricula associated with the new major program. The “start date” will be Fall, 2016. It is our intent that all courses required for the new major be identified and described in the 2016-17 catalog, even though not all of them will be offered during the 2016-17 academic year.

It is also our intent to have this major program accredited by ABET (the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology), which will require that we have at least one graduate from the program before we apply for accreditation review.

As part of the major program, we will need to build courses that are formally engineering courses, as opposed to science-based courses. Some (but not all) of the new courses developed will be available only to students in the MS&E major.

A new prefix will clearly indicate to students and to ABET the courses that are engineering-based and which are more science-based. We therefore request that a Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) course prefix be approved for use with the engineering-based courses we are developing.

If this proposal is approved by faculty governance, we request that the prefix be available for use upon University Senate approval, as it will help us in developing course proposals in a timely way.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.