

CRITERION 1. STUDENTS

Student Admissions

The process for admission to the PSE program at UWSP includes recruitment of high school students, application and acceptance to the university and new student orientation.

The UWSP Admissions Office handles a large share of the recruiting duties. Admissions counselors attend numerous college fairs to promote the university; when they find students who are interested in engineering, the counselors provide contact information and brochures describing the program. The Admission Office also handles Point Preview Days, which are essentially open house events for potential students and their families. The Paper Science and Engineering Department participates in these Point Preview Days by meeting with groups of students and parents expressing an interest in the major.

In addition to recruiting by the Admissions Office, the College of Natural Resources (CNR) has two staff members responsible for recruiting students into the college. These individuals have more in-depth knowledge of the program. PSE faculty have, on occasion, accompanied the CNR recruitment personnel to college fairs to provide additional support and information. The CNR also hosts many programs for youth on campus, including “Careers in Natural Resources Day”. The PSE faculty have time during these programs to present information to the students about careers in the paper industry and the PSE program and give tours of our facilities.

In November 2007, the PSE Department hosted an Open House. The event was widely advertised by mail, email and campus message postings. Of the seventeen students who attended, eight have declared PSE as their major. This was one of the most successful recruiting events we have had so far.

Students who are specifically interested in the PSE program will typically arrange a visit to campus for a more extensive tour and discussion with a PSE faculty member. This discussion usually involves a detailed description of the curriculum, the career opportunities and starting salaries for graduates of the program.

Students apply for admission to UWSP through an online system for all UW System institutions (<http://apply.wisconsin.edu>). A paper application is also available from the Admissions Office. The admissions standards for acceptance to UWSP change periodically, and are summarized in table 1-1 for the past five years. The admission qualifications for entering PSE majors for the previous five years are shown in table 1-2a. For comparison, the admission qualifications for all UWSP freshmen are shown in Table 1-2b.

Once admitted to the university, students may declare the PSE major immediately. There are no requirements for admission to the major at the freshman level. New freshmen at UWSP take part in a two-day orientation program with their parents. Through the program, they learn how to adapt to university life and get to know UWSP's customs, traditions, curricula, policies, and services. As part of this program, PSE students meet with a PSE faculty advisor and prepare their class schedule for their first semester. They also meet with upperclass students and other new students in small

discussion groups. At the same time, parents hear presentations by UWSP faculty and staff on such topics as student health programs, health insurance, financial aid opportunities, housing and dining programs, and parent-student understanding. During the program, students and parents may stay in a residence hall and eat at UWSP dining facilities.

Table 1-1. Standards for Freshman Admissions

Fall 2007	<p>Rank in the top 25% of high school graduating class OR Cumulative high school grade point average of 3.25 or above (on a 4-point scale) AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent) OR Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent)</p> <p>Applicants who don't meet the above criteria but have a high school GPA of 3.00 or above -OR- a high school rank in the top 50% -OR- an ACT composite score of 21 or above (SAT I equivalent) will be reviewed individually. The decision to admit, deny or place on our postpone/wait list for later consideration will depend on a combination of factors including class rank, ACT/SAT I score, high school GPA, rigor of the high school courses, trend in grades, and performance in college preparatory courses.</p>
Fall 2006	<p>Rank in the top 25% of high school graduating class OR Cumulative high school grade point average of 3.25 or above (on a 4-point scale) AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent) OR Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent)</p> <p>Applicants who don't meet the above criteria but still have a high school GPA of 3.00 or above -OR- a high school rank in the top 50% -OR- an ACT composite score of 21 or above (SAT I equivalent) will be reviewed individually. The decision to admit, deny or place on our postpone/wait list for later consideration will depend on a combination of factors including class rank, ACT/SAT I score, high school GPA, rigor of the high school courses, trend in grades, and performance in college preparatory courses.</p>
Fall 2005	<p>Rank in the top 25% of high school graduating class OR Cumulative high school grade point average of 3.25 or above (on a 4-point scale) AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent) OR Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent)</p> <p>Applicants who don't meet the above criteria but still have a high school GPA of 3.00 or above -OR- a high school rank in the top 50% -OR- an ACT composite score of 21 or above (SAT I equivalent) will be reviewed individually. The decision to admit, deny or place on our postpone/wait list for later consideration will depend on a combination of factors including class rank, ACT/SAT I score, high school GPA, rigor of the high school courses, trend in grades, and performance in college preparatory courses.</p>
Fall 2004	<p>Rank in the top 40% of high school graduating class OR Cum high school GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent) OR Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent)</p> <p>Applicants who don't meet admission criteria but have a GPA of 3.00, rank in the top 41-50% of class or have an ACT of 21 (SAT 990) were reviewed individually on a rolling basis. The decision to admit, deny or place on our postpone/wait list for later consideration will depend on a combination of factors including class rank, ACT/SAT I score, high school GPA, rigor of the high school courses, trend in grades, and performance in college preparatory courses.</p>
Fall 2003	<p>Rank in the top 40% of high school graduating class OR Cum high school GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent) OR Rank in the top 50% of high school graduating class AND ACT composite score of 21 or higher (SAT I equivalent)</p> <p>Applicants who don't meet admission criteria but have a GPA of 3.00, rank in the top 41-50% of class or have an ACT of 21 (SAT 990) were reviewed individually on a rolling basis. The decision to admit, deny or place on our postpone/wait list for later consideration will depend on a combination of factors including class rank, ACT/SAT I score, high school GPA, rigor of the high school courses, trend in grades, and performance in college preparatory courses.</p>

Table 1-2a. Admission Qualifications for Freshmen PSE Majors

Academic Year	Composite ACT		Composite SAT		Percentile Rank in High School		Number of New Students Enrolled
	MIN.	AVG.	MIN.	AVG.	MIN.	AVG.	
2007	19	22.0	NA	NA	55	74.7	7
2006	22	25.9	NA	NA	54	72.9	5
2005	22	25.3	NA	NA	59	84.8	6
2004	19	22.2	NA	NA	50	69.4	6
2003	22	23.5	NA	NA	79	83.5	2

Table 1-2b. Admission Qualifications for All UWSP Freshmen Admissions

Academic Year	Composite ACT		Composite SAT		Percentile Rank in High School		Number of New Students Enrolled
	MIN.	AVG.	MIN.	AVG.	MIN.	AVG.	
2007	NA	22.8	NA	NA	NA	72.5	1627
2006	NA	22.7	NA	NA	NA	71.6	1649
2005	NA	22.7	NA	NA	NA	70.9	1530
2004	NA	22.7	NA	NA	NA	73.5	1534
2003	NA	22.8	NA	NA	NA	73.2	1508

Evaluating Student Performance

The UWSP Office of Registration and Records provides an electronic Degree Progress Report (DPR) for advisor use. Example DPRs are shown in the PSE ABET information web site with further explanation. The DPR shows the courses completed by the student, the courses in progress, and the course requirements for the major. When a student has declared a minor, the requirements are shown for that as well. Especially helpful for PSE faculty advisors is the listing of the General Degree Requirements in the DPR.

The DPR is accessible only by department chairs, the student's assigned advisors and the students themselves. Faculty must be logged in to the university's "myPoint" system to obtain the DPR. Since these documents are online, student progress may be evaluated from any computer with internet access.

Student progress toward graduation is defined in the Academic Information section of the UWSP Catalog (<http://www.uwsp.edu/news/uwspcatalog/academic.htm>).

Requirements for student performance are summarized here.

Students are ultimately responsible for meeting the requirements of their degree. In general, they are required to complete the requirements in force at the time that they enroll. There are special situations that are exceptions to this requirement, such as changes in requirements of an external agency (<http://www.uwsp.edu/news/uwspcatalog/academic.htm#Academic Requirements>).

A student is deemed to be in "good academic standing" if both their cumulative and semester grade point averages are above 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Problems with grades lead to changes in the student's academic standing: the levels are Probation-1, Probation-2 and Suspension. Details of these academic standings appear on the UWSP catalog web site (<http://www.uwsp.edu/news/uwspcatalog/acad3.htm#Probation>).

Satisfactory academic progress is determined each June, and the status is printed on the DPR (<http://www.uwsp.edu/news/uwspcatalog/acad4.htm#SAP>).

Advising Students

All student advising is handled by PSE faculty. Advisors are assigned based on the student's year in the program; since the sequence of courses and industry experiences is very similar for all students, grouping students in this way facilitates more effective advising. As an example, the faculty member who handles the sophomores can quickly scan their degree progress reports for the courses that should have been completed. The student can then be advised accurately and efficiently on the academic requirements for the following semester. The faculty member will also know that these students should have accepted a cooperative internship in industry, and will guide them to the necessary procedures to spend a semester off campus without losing their status as continuing students.

All students must consult with their advisor to obtain electronic authorization to register for classes in the subsequent semester. This requirement allows PSE faculty to be in contact with each of their advisees at least once per semester for review of academic progress, to answer questions, etc.

Online advising tools make finding the academic progress of students easy. The Registration and Records Office maintains a comprehensive database of student information which may be viewed in a number of ways online. In addition, PSE faculty may track student progress using the department's advising form (see the PSE ABET information web site).

Transfer Students and Transfer Courses

Transfer students apply to UWSP using the same application as new freshman students. Transfer students submit the UW System application form and have official transcripts from both their high school and each college they have attended forwarded directly to the UWSP Admissions Office.

Students are normally eligible for admission unless they have compiled an academic record at their last institution such that they would have been suspended if they had been attending UWSP. Students with such a record may apply for admission to UW-Stevens Point no sooner than one semester after their first suspension or two years (four semesters) after their second suspension.

Transferring credits from other UW System institutions is usually straightforward. The Transfer Information System (<http://www.uwsa.edu/tis/>) is an online source of information about credit transfer, course equivalencies, academic requirements and general UW System campus information, and allows students to determine how their credits will transfer. Transfer counselors in the Admissions Office review transcripts to ensure accuracy in transfer credits. Students who transfer from non-UW institutions, or whose courses are not included on the Transfer Information System will have their courses and credits reviewed individually by the transfer admissions counselors in conjunction with academic departments.

Historically, PSE has had few transfer students (Table 1-3). The department has established a transfer course equivalency guide for Bay de Noc Community College in

Escanaba, MI, shown in the PSE ABET information web site, which may increase the number of transfer students in the future.

Table 1-3. PSE Transfer Students for Past Five Academic Years

<u>Academic Year</u>	Number of Transfer Students Enrolled
2007-08	0
2006-07	1
2005-06	2
2004-05	3
2003-04	2

Graduation Requirements

Undergraduates apply for graduation at least one full semester prior to the term in which they complete their degree. PSE majors are advised to complete this application in the spring semester of their junior year. The application forms are obtained from the Registration and Records Office, completed by the student, and returned to the Registration and Records Office. It is the student’s responsibility to declare all majors and minors in the appropriate departments before submitting the graduation application. The requirements for a bachelor’s degree are:

- Complete all the general requirements for the degree.
- Earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all courses attempted at UW-Stevens Point.
- Earn a minimum 2.00 GPA in all courses required for a major, except in those programs requiring a higher GPA, and complete all the requirements for the major. In PSE, students must also complete a chemistry minor.
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.00 overall (includes both UWSP and transfer credits).

The Registration and Records Office performs a credit check on all graduation applications and returns a report to the department chair(s) in which the student has declared their major(s). The department chair(s) then sign the report authorizing the student for graduation.

Enrollment and Graduation Trends

Figure 1-1 and Table 1-4 summarize the enrollment and graduation trends for the PSE program from 2002-2008. The Student FTE in Table 1-4 is calculated as $student\ FTE = \frac{total\ credits\ for\ all\ PSE\ majors}{15\ credits/FTE}$. Since most PSE majors take more than 15 credits per semester, the calculated FTE may be more than the actual number of students (headcount).

During the period from 1997-2001 (not shown on this graph), the program had a rapid decline in the number of declared majors (from 209 down to 86). There are two major causes for this decline: prospective student concerns about the paper industry and lack of student recruiting. The paper industry in Wisconsin had major workforce reductions during this period. Most of the reductions were in the unionized labor force, but since this “downsizing” was widely publicized the perception of a diminishing paper industry presence in the state was prevalent among potential students. This problem was

compounded by the program’s previous reliance on industry employees’ recommendations to recruit students into the program. Most of these employees were discouraging students from entering the industry. The recent improvement in the health of the paper industry, combined with renewed recruiting efforts, has helped stem the decline. We expect that the trend will reverse over the next two years.

Table 1-5 shows the matriculation and placement data for the most recent twenty-five PSE graduates. All twenty-five graduates were placed in the entry-level positions shown before graduation.

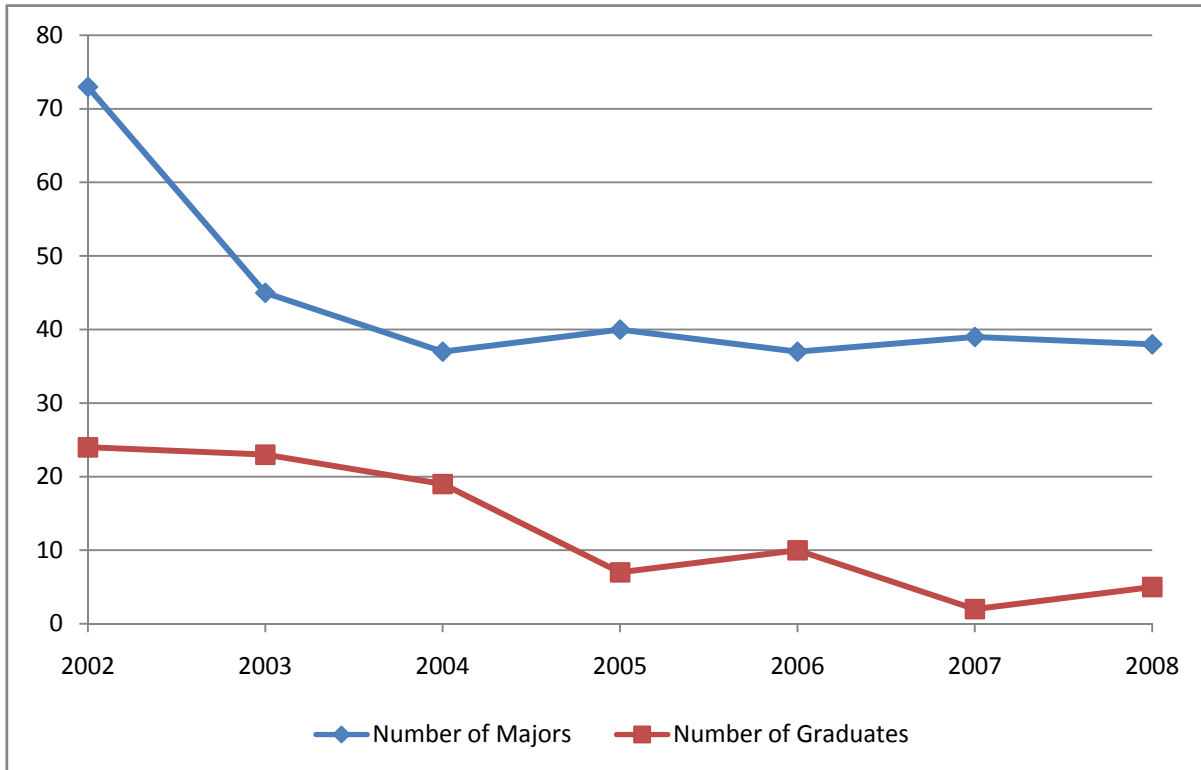


Figure 1-1. Enrollment and graduation trends, 2002-2008

Table 1-4. Enrollment Trends for Past Five Academic Years

	2003 Year (Current-4)	2004 Year (Current-3)	2005 Year (Current-2)	2006 Year (Current-1)	2007 Year (Current)
Full-time Students	45	34	38	29	38
Part-time Students	3	3	2	6	2
Student FTE ¹	47	36	43	31	41
Graduate students	0	0	0	0	0

¹ FTE = Full-Time Equivalent = 15 credits

Table 1-5. Program Graduates

Name	Year Matriculated	Year Graduated	Initial Employment
Dyan Issacson	2002	2007	Process Engineer Ahlstrom Filtration
Yan Lou	2002	2007	Sales And Service Engineer TechPap Inc.
Thomas Baugnet	2001	2006	Process Engineer Sonoco US Mills Inc.
Corey Dercks	2001	2006	Manufacturing Associate Domtar
Andrew Kozloski	2001	2006	Graduate Student UW Madison
Nicholas Krueger	2001	2006	Process Engineer Sonoco
Adam Mueller	2001	2006	Process Engineer Altivity
Michael Parrett	2001	2006	Process Engineer Appleton Coated
Bryan Pierre	2001	2006	Process Engineer MeadWestvaco
Jeremy Ploederl	2001	2006	Application Engineer Honeywell
Rebecca Rock	2001	2006	Paper Machine Supervisor Wausau Papers, Brokaw
Michael Wagner	2001	2006	Associate Technologist Grain Processing Corp
Matthew Czerniak	2000	2005	Process Engineer Sonoco
Andrew Goodyear	2000	2005	Process Engineer Thilmany
Nathan Koepfel	2000	2005	Process Engineer Boise-Cascade
Jeffrey Osterberg	2000	2005	Process Engineer International Paper
Adam Schmidt	2000	2005	Associate Technologist Grain Processing Corp
Matthew Schneider	2000	2005	Sales Engineer Weavexx
Alison St. Peter-Graf	2000	2005	Associate Technologist Weyhaeuser
Jefferey Dykhuis	1999	2004	Mill Shift Technician Wausau Paper
Michael Fleischmann	1999	2004	Laboratory Technician USDA Forrest Services
Eric Herritz	1999	2004	Process Engineer Kimberly Clark
Corey Kopke	1999	2004	Manufacture Associate Domtar
Joshua Lorge	1999	2004	Process Engineer Appleton
Tyson Marquardt	1999	2004	Applications Engineer Kadant