Appendix 4-E Cross-sectional Cohort (PIE) Surveys and Focus Group Questions

Cross-sectional Cohort survey fall 2005 Cross-sectional Cohort survey spring 2006 Cross-sectional Cohort Focus Group Interview Guide

Academic Pathways Study Fall'05 Survey

Large Midwestern Public University (LMPub)

Please click the SUBMIT button only after you have completed the survey. For best viewing results, please maximize your browser window.

- 1. What is your expected year of graduation from college?
 - 2005
 - 2006
 - 2007
 - 2008
 - 2009
 - 2010
 - 2011
 - 2012 or later
- 2. Do you intend to complete a major in engineering?
 - Definitely Not
 - Probably Not
 - Not Sure
 - C Probably Yes
 - Definitely Yes
- 3. What do you intend to major in?
 - C Aerospace engineering & mechanics
 - C Astrophysics
 - Bio-based products engineering
 - Biomedical engineering
 - Biosystems & agricultural engineering
 - Chemical engineering
 - Chemistry

- Civil engineering
- Computer engineering
- Computer science
- **C** Electrical engineering
- **Geological engineering**
- C Geology
- **Geophysics**
- Materials science & engineering
- Mathematics
- C Mechanical engineering
- C Physics
- Statistics
- C Arts & humanities
- Education
- Social Science
- C Other non-engineering
- 4. If you intend to DOUBLE MAJOR, what is the second major you intend to complete? (Mark N/A if you do not intend to double major.)
 - 🖸 N/A
 - Aerospace engineering & mechanics
 - Astrophysics
 - Bio-based products engineering
 - Biomedical engineering
 - Biosystems & agricultural engineering
 - Chemical engineering
 - Chemistry
 - Civil engineering
 - Computer engineering
 - Computer science
 - Electrical engineering
 - **Geological engineering**
 - C Geology

- **Geophysics**
- Materials science & engineering
- Mathematics
- C Mechanical engineering
- Physics
- **C** Statistics
- Arts & humanities
- Education
- Social Science
- Other non-engineering
- 5. Do you intend to practice, conduct research in, or teach engineering for at least 3 years after graduation?
 - Definitely Not
 - C Probably Not
 - Not Sure
 - C Probably Yes
 - Definitely Yes
- 6. If you are thinking of going to graduate school NOT IN ENGINEERING, please mark your most probable area of study. Otherwise, mark N/A.
 - Business
 - Education
 - Medicine
 - 🖸 Law
 - MA/Ph.D.
 - Public Service
 - C Other
 - 🖸 N/A
- 7. We are interested in knowing why you are studying engineering now. Please

indicate below the extent to which the following reasons apply to you:

	Not a Reason		Moderate Reason	Major Reason
Technology plays an important role in solving society's problems		C	C	
Engineers make more money than most other professionals				
My parent(s) would disapprove if I chose a major other than engineering				
Engineers have contributed greatly to fixing problems in the world			C	
Engineers are well paid				
Engineering is an occupation that is respected by other people				
My parent(s) want me to be an engineer			C	
An engineering degree will guarantee me a job when I graduate				
Engineers are creative problem solvers			C	
A faculty member, academic advisor, teaching assistant or other university affiliated person has encouraged and/or inspired me to study engineering		C	C	C
A non-university affiliated mentor has encouraged and/or inspired me to study engineering	C	C	C	C

8. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with each of the statement:

	Disagr Strong	ee ly ^{Disagree}	Agree	Agree Strongly
I prefer studying in a group to studying by myself				
I prefer working as part of a team to working alone				
I get along well with others in study situations			C	
I am a collaborative person			C	
Creative thinking is one of my strengths			C	
I am familiar with what a practicing engineer does				
I am skilled at solving problems that can have			C	

multiple solutions

9. Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared to your classmates. We want the most accurate estimate of how you see yourself. (Mark one in each row.)

	Lowest 10%	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Highest 10%
Self confidence (social))				
Leadership ability	/				
Public speaking ability	/			C	
Math ability	/				
Science ability	/				
Computer skills	s 🖸				
Communication skills	s 🖸				
Ability to apply math and science principles in solving real world problems	i 🖸	C		C	C
Business ability	/	C			
Ability to perform in teams	s 🖸	C			
Critical Thinking skills	s 🖸				

10. How important do you think each of the following skills and abilities is to becoming a successful engineer? (Mark one in each row.)

Iı	Not nporta	Somewhat nt Important l	Very Important	Crucial
Self confidence (social)			C	
Leadership ability				
Public speaking ability				
Math ability				
Science ability				
Computer skills				
Communication skills				
Ability to apply math and science principles in solving real world			C	C

problems			
Business ability			
Ability to perform in teams	C	C	

11. Please rate your satisfaction with this institution on each of the aspects of campus life listed below. If you do not have experience with this aspect, mark N/A.

	Very Dissatist	y fied	d Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A
Quality of instruction by faculty				C	
Quality of advising by faculty				C	
Availability of faculty		C			
Quality of instruction by teaching assistants	1 A A			C	
Quality of advising by teaching assistants	1 A A			С	
Availability of teaching assistants	1 A A	G		C	

12. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following at this institution. If you do not use the service or facility, mark N/A.

I	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A
Computer facilities					
Libraries					\odot
Classrooms					O
Tutoring					\odot
Academic advising					\mathbf{O}
Laboratories					

13. Since the beginning of the Fall term, how often have you taken courses which required your engagement in individual and/or group projects?

- C Never
- C Rarely
- C Occasionally
- **C** Frequently
- 14. Think about the engineering classes you have taken since the beginning of the Fall term (engineering, math, and science classes). Indicate how often you: (Mark N/A if you have not taken any engineering related classes.)

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	N/A
Came late to engineering class	С	C		C	
Skipped engineering class		C			
Turned in engineering assignments that did not reflect your best work	С	C	C	C	C
Turned in engineering assignments late	C				
Thought engineering classes were boring	C	C	C	C	C

15. Think about the liberal arts classes you have taken since the beginning of the Fall term (not engineering, math, or science classes). Indicate how often you: (Mark N/A if you have not taken any non-engineering related classes.)

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	y N/A
Came late to liberal arts class		C			
Skipped liberal arts class		C			
Turned in liberal arts assignments that did not reflect your best work		C	C	C	
Turned in liberal arts assignments late		C		С	
Thought liberal arts classes were boring			C	C	

16. How often have you interacted with the following people since the beginning of the Fall term (e.g. by phone, e-mail, Instant Messenger, or in person)? (Mark

one for each item.)

	Never	per	1-2 times per Month	Once per Week	2-3 times per Week	Daily
Faculty during class						
Faculty during office hours						
Faculty outside of class or office hours						
Teaching Assistants during class						
Teaching Assistants during office hours						
Teaching Assistants outside of class or office hours	- A			C	C	

- 17. What portion of the courses you have taken since the beginning of the Fall term have been taught primarily by graduate students?
 - None
 - C Very little
 - Less than half
 - C About half
 - I More than half
 - C All or nearly all
- 18. Since the beginning of the Fall term, what portion of your classes used the following teaching methods?

	None	Very little	Less than half	About half	More than half	All or nearly all
Lectures						C
Individual Projects		C	C			
Team Projects			C			C
Labs						
Seminars			C			

- 19. To what extent have your courses required your engagement in individual and/or group projects?
 - 🖸 Too Few
 - C Enough
 - 🖸 Too many
- 20. Some people are involved in non-engineering activities on or off campus, such as hobbies, civic or church organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, sports, etc. How important is it for you to be involved in these kind of activities?
 - Not Important
 - C Somewhat Important
 - C Very Important
 - Essential
- 21. How often are you involved in the kinds of non-engineering activities described above?
 - C Never
 - C Rarely
 - C Occasionally
 - **C** Frequently
- 22. Thinking about your college experience since the beginning of the Fall term, please indicate how much pressure you are feeling related to the following:

	No	Reasonable	Extreme
	Pressure	Pressure	Pressure
Course load (amount of course material being covered)		C	C
Course pace (the pace at which the course material is being covered)			C
Balance between social and academic life		C	

- 23. How well are you meeting the workload demands of your coursework?
 - I am meeting all of the demands easily
 - I am meeting all of the demands, but it is hard work
 - I am meeting most of the demands, but cannot meet some
 - I can meet some of the demands, but cannot meet most
 - I cannot meet any of the demands
- 24. How stressed do you feel in your coursework right now?
 - No stress
 - Some stress
 - C Reasonable stress
 - Significant stress
 - Extreme stress
- 25. Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?
 - None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)
 - Some (but I probably will have sufficient funds)
 - Major (not sure if I will have sufficient funds to complete college)
- 26. How do you meet your college expenses?



- 27. Do you have family members who are practicing engineers?
 - C Yes
 - 🖸 No
- 28. Do you have close friends who are practicing engineers?
 - C Yes
 - 🖸 No
- 29. How much exposure have you had to a professional engineering environment as a visitor, intern, or employee?
 - No exposure
 - Limited exposure
 - Moderate exposure
 - Extensive exposure
- 30. About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

	0	1-5	6-10	11- 15	16- 20	21- 25	26- 30	more than 30
Preparing for class (studying, reading,								
writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other	C		0		O	C	O	
academic activities)								
Working for pay	C				O	O	O	
Participating in co-curricular activities								
(organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or	C							
sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)								
Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)	C							
Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse,	C							



- 31. Please rate the overall quality of your collegiate experience so far:
 - Very dissatisfied
 - Dissatisfied
 - Satisfied
 - C Very satisfied
- 32. What did you do this past summer that was particularly important to you?



- 33. Did your summer experience advance your interest in studying engineering?
 - YesNo
- 34. Did you participate over the summer in any of the following? (Mark all that apply.)
 - Engineering related internship/job
 - □ Engineering related research
 - **Engineering related coursework**
 - □ N/A

- 35. In the space provided, list 5 terms you would use to describe "engineering":
- 36. In the space provided, list 5 terms you would use to describe "design":
- 37. In the space provided, list 5 activities you think engineers do at work.
- 38. Of the 20 items below, please put a check mark next to the five you think are MOST IMPORTANT for practicing engineers.
 - □ Business knowledge
 - \Box Communication
 - □ Conducting experiments
 - □ Contemporary issues
 - Creativity
 - Data analysis
 - Design
 - \Box Engineering analysis
 - **Engineering tools**
 - **E**thics
 - □ Global context
 - □ Leadership
 - □ Life-long learning
 - □ Management skills
 - Math
 - □ Problem solving
 - □ Professionalism
 - \Box Science
 - □ Societal context

□ Teamwork

39. Ye

Your sex:

C Female

- 🖸 Male
- 40. Please indicate your ethnic background: (Mark all that apply)
 - White/Caucasian
 - C African American/Black
 - C American Indian/Alaska Native
 - C Asian American/Asian
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 - C Mexican American/Chicano
 - Puerto Rican
 - C Other Latino
 - C Other

41. Citizenship status:

- U.S. Resident
- □ Permanent resident (Green card)
- □ Neither
- 42. Do any of your immediate family members hold an engineering degree? (Mark all that apply)
 - 🗖 No
 - \Box Yes, both parents
 - \Box Yes, father only
 - \Box Yes, mother only
 - \square Yes, sibling(s)

- 43. What is the highest level of education that your mother completed? (Mark one box)
 - \Box Did not finish high school
 - □ Graduated from high school
 - □ Attended college but did not ocmplete degree
 - Completed an Associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Professional degree (J.D., M.D., etc.)
 - Completed a Doctoral degree (Ph.D., Ed.D)
- 44. What is the highest level of education that your father completed? (Mark one box)
 - \Box Did not finish high school
 - □ Graduated from high school
 - □ Attended college but did not complete degree
 - Completed an Associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Professional degree (J.D., M.D., etc.)
 - Completed a Doctoral degree (Ph.D., Ed.D)
- 45. What is your best estimate of your parents' total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes. (Mark one)
 - Less than \$10,000
 - \$10,000-14,999
 - \$15,000-19,999
 - \$20,000-24,999
 - \$25,000-29,999
 - \$30,000-39,999
 - \$40,000-49,999

- \$50,000-59,999
- \$60,000-74,999
- \$75,000-99,999
- \$100,000-149,999
- \$150,000-199,999
- \$200,000-249,999
- **\$**250,000 or more

Academic Pathways Study Spring'06 Survey

Large Midwestern Public University (LMPub)

Please click the SUBMIT button only after you have completed the survey. For best viewing results, please maximize your browser window.

- 1. What is your expected year of graduation from college?
 - 2006
 - 2007
 - 2008
 - 2009
 - 2010
 - 2011
 - 2012
 - 2013 or later
- 2. Do you intend to complete a major in engineering?
 - Definitely Not
 - C Probably Not
 - Not Sure
 - C Probably Yes
 - Definitely Yes

3. What do you intend to major in?

- Aerospace engineering & mechanics
- C Astrophysics
- Bio-based products engineering
- **©** Biomedical engineering
- Biosystems & agricultural engineering

- C Chemical engineering
- C Chemistry
- Civil engineering
- Computer engineering
- Computer science
- **C** Electrical engineering
- Petroleum engineering
- Geological engineering
- Geology
- **Geophysics**
- Materials science & engineering
- Mathematics
- C Mechanical engineering
- Physics
- Statistics
- C Arts & humanities
- Education
- Social science
- C Other non-engineering
- 4. If you intend to DOUBLE MAJOR, what is the second major you intend to complete? (Mark N/A if you do not intend to double major.)
 - Aerospace engineering & mechanics
 - C Astrophysics
 - Bio-based products engineering
 - Biomedical engineering
 - Biosystems & agricultural engineering
 - Chemical engineering
 - Chemistry
 - Civil engineering
 - Computer engineering
 - Computer science
 - Electrical engineering

- C Petroleum engineering
- **Geological engineering**
- C Geology
- **Geophysics**
- Materials science & engineering
- Mathematics
- Mechanical engineering
- C Physics
- Statistics
- C Arts & humanities
- Education
- Social science
- Other non-engineering
- 5. Do you intend to practice, conduct research in, or teach engineering for at least 3 years after graduation?
 - Definitely Not
 - C Probably Not
 - Not Sure
 - C Probably Yes
 - Definitely Yes
- 6. If you are thinking of going to graduate school NOT IN ENGINEERING, please mark your most probable area of study. Otherwise, mark N/A.
 - Business
 - Education
 - Medicine
 - 🖸 Law
 - MA/Ph.D.
 - Public Service
 - C Other
 - 🖸 N/A

7.	We are interested in knowing why you are studying engineering now. Please
	indicate below the extent to which the following reasons apply to you:

		Minimal		5
	Reason	Reason	Reason	Reason
Technology plays an important role in solving society's problems				C
Engineers make more money than most other professionals		C	C	C
My parent(s) would disapprove if I chose a major other than engineering				C
Engineers have contributed greatly to fixing problems in the world				C
Engineers are well paid				
Engineering is an occupation that is respected by other people				C
My parent(s) want me to be an engineer				
An engineering degree will guarantee me a job when I graduate				С
Engineers are creative problem solvers				
A faculty member, academic advisor, teaching assistant or other university affiliated person has encouraged and/or inspired me to study engineering	۵		C	C
A non-university affiliated mentor has encouraged and/or inspired me to study engineering	C	C	C	C

8. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with each of the statements:

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly
I prefer studying in a group to studying by myself		C	C	
I am a competitive person				
I prefer working as part of a team to working alone				
I get along well with others in study situations				
I strive to get higher grades than my classmates				

The educational institution I am attending promotes competitive work		C		
My instructors often remind students that they need to do better than other students to obtain high grades	C	C	C	C
I have easy access to work spaces where I can participate in peer study/discussion sessions with my fellow students		C	C	C
I am encouraged by my instructors to initiate or participate in peer study sessions with my fellow students		C	C	C
I am a collaborative person				
The educational institution I am attending promotes collaborative work		C	C	C

9. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with each of the statements:

	Disagr Strong	ee ly ^{Disagree}	Agree	Agree Strongly
Creative thinking is one of my strengths	s 🖸			
I am familiar with what a practicing engineer does	b 4			
I am skilled at solving problems that can have multiple solutions	1 A A	C		C

10. Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared to your classmates. We want the most accurate estimate of how you see yourself. (Mark one in each row.)

		Below Average	Average	Above Average	Highest 10%
Self confidence (social)					
Leadership ability					
Public speaking ability					
Math ability					
Science ability					
Computer skills	5				
Communication skills	5				
Ability to apply math and science					

principles in solving real world problems			
Business ability	C		
Ability to perform in teams			
Critical Thinking skills		C	

11. How important do you think each of the following skills and abilities is to becoming a successful engineer? (Mark one in each row.)

Iı	Not mporta	Somewhat nt Important	Very Importan	t Crucial
Self confidence (social)	C			
Leadership ability	C			
Public speaking ability				
Math ability				
Science ability				
Computer skills				
Communication skills				
Ability to apply math and science principles in solving real world problems	C	C	C	C
Business ability				
Ability to perform in teams			C	

12. Please rate your satisfaction with this institution on each of the aspects of campus life listed below. If you do not have experience with this aspect, mark N/A.

	Very Dissatisfied	d Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A
Quality of instruction by faculty		C			
Quality of advising by faculty	, 🖸	C			
Availability of faculty	, 🖸	C			
Quality of instruction by teaching assistants		C		С	
Quality of advising by teaching assistants	1 A A	C		C	

Availability of teaching assistants	C	C	
assistants			

13. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following at this institution. If you do not use the service or facility, mark N/A.

	Very Dissatisfied	d Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A
Computer facilities		C			
Libraries					
Classrooms					
Tutoring					0
Academic advising					
Laboratories	C	C	C		

- 14. Since the beginning of the Spring term, how often have you taken courses which required your engagement in individual and/or group projects?
 - C Never
 - C Rarely
 - C Occasionally
 - **C** Frequently
- 15. Think about the engineering classes you have taken since the beginning of the Spring term (engineering, math, and science classes). Indicate how often you: (Mark N/A if you have not taken any engineering related classes.)

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	/N/A
Came late to engineering class					
Skipped engineering class					
Turned in engineering assignments that did not reflect your best work		C	C	C	
Turned in engineering assignments late					
Thought engineering classes					

were boring			

16. Think about the liberal arts classes you have taken since the beginning of the Spring term (not engineering, math, and science). Indicate how often you: (Mark N/A if you have not taken any non-engineering related classes.)

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	y N/A
Came late to liberal arts class			C		
Skipped liberal arts class			C		
Turned in liberal arts					
assignments that did not reflect					
your best work					
Turned in liberal arts		C	C		
assignments late					
Thought liberal arts classes were boring				C	

17. How often have you interacted with the following people since the beginning of the Spring term (e.g. by phone, e-mail, Instant Messenger, or in person)? (Mark one for each item.)

	Never	times	Once per Week	2-3 times per Week	Daily
Faculty during class					
Faculty during office hours					
Faculty outside of class or office hours					
Teaching Assistants during class					
Teaching Assistants during office hours					
Teaching Assistants outside of class or office hours		C	C	C	

18. What portion of the courses you have taken since the beginning of the Spring term have been taught primarily by graduate students?

C None

- C Very little
- Less than half
- C About half
- More than half
- C All or nearly all
- 19. Since the beginning of the Spring term, what portion of your classes have used the following teaching methods?

	None	Very little	Less than half	About half	More than half	All or nearly all
Lectures		C				
Individual Projects						
Team Projects						
Labs						
Seminars					C	

- 20. To what extent have your courses required your engagement in individual and/or group projects?
 - 🖸 Too Few
 - C Enough
 - C Too many
- 21. Some people are involved in non-engineering activities on or off campus, such as hobbies, civic or church organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, sports, etc. How important is it for you to be involved in these kind of activities?
 - Not Important
 - Somewhat Important
 - C Very Important
 - Essential

- 22. How often are you involved in the kinds of non-engineering activities described above?
 - C Never
 - C Rarely
 - C Occasionally
 - **C** Frequently
- 23. Thinking about your college experience since the beginning of the Spring term, please indicate how much pressure you are feeling related to the following:

	No	No Reasonable	
	Pressure	Pressure	
Course load (amount of course material being covered)		C	
Course pace (the pace at which the course material is being covered)	1. A	C	
Balance between social and academic life			

- 24. How well are you meeting the workload demands of your coursework?
 - I am meeting all of the demands easily
 - I am meeting all of the demands, but it is hard work
 - I am meeting most of the demands, but cannot meet some
 - I can meet some of the demands, but cannot meet most
 - I cannot meet any of the demands
- 25. How stressed do you feel in your coursework right now?
 - No stress
 - Some stress
 - Reasonable stress
 - Significant stress
 - Extreme stress

- 26. Do you have any concerns about your ability to finance your college education?
 - None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)
 - Some (but I probably will have sufficient funds)
 - Major (not sure if I will have sufficient funds to complete college)
- 27. How do you meet your college expenses?

	None	Very little	Less than half	About half		All or nearly all
Self (income)					C	
Self (savings)						
Parents and family						
Employer support						
Scholarships and grants						
Loans				C	C	C

- 28. Do you have close friends who are practicing engineers?
 - 🖸 No
 - C Yes
- 29. Do you have family members who are practicing engineers?
 - 🖸 No
 - C Yes
- 30. How much exposure have you had to a professional engineering environment as a visitor, intern, or employee?
 - I No exposure
 - Limited exposure
 - Moderate exposure

E Extensive exposure

31. About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

	0	1-5	6-10	11- 15	16- 20	21- 25	26- 30	more than 30
Preparing for class (studying, reading,								
writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other	0							
academic activities)								
Working for pay	0							
Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications,								
student government, social fraternity or								
sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)								
Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)								C
Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)		C						C
Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)								C

32. Please rate the overall quality of your collegiate experience so far:

- C Very dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- C Satisfied
- C Very satisfied
- 33. Some students during their academic career have a specific experience that prompts them to doubt their decision to major in engineering. Have you had any such experiences?

🖸 No

C Yes

- 34. If YES, please indicate the type(s) of reason(s) and/or experience(s) that prompted you to DOUBT your decision to major in engineering. Check all that apply.
 - Assignment/test/exam grade in a math or science class
 - Assignment/test/exam grade in an engineering-related class
 - □ Workload-related experience
 - \Box Course material in a math or science class
 - □ Course material in an engineering-related class
 - \Box Course instruction
 - □ Interaction with peers (e.g. group project, in-class activities, etc.)
 - □ Interaction with a faculty member or instructor
 - \square N/A I have not had any experiences that prompted me to doubt my decision to major in engineering.
 - Other:
- 35. Please indicate the type(s) of reason(s) and/or experience(s) that prompted you to CONFIRM your decision to major in engineering. Check all that apply.
 - Assignment/test/exam grade in a math or science class
 - □ Assignment/test/exam grade in an engineering-related class
 - □ Workload-related experience
 - Course material in a math or science class
 - □ Course material in an engineering-related class
 - \Box Course instruction
 - □ Interaction with peers (e.g. group project, in-class activities, etc.)
 - \Box Interaction with a faculty member or instructor
 - □ N/A I have not had any experiences that prompted me to confirm my decision to major in engineering.
 - Other:
- 36. Since coming to college, have you had any research experience(s)?

- 🖸 No
- **C** Yes, in engineering related areas
- Yes, in non-engineering related areas
- 37. Your sex:
 - 🖸 Male
 - C Female
- 38. Please indicate your ethnic background: (Mark all that apply)
 - □ White/Caucasian
 - □ African American/Black
 - American Indian/Alaska Native
 - Asian American/Asian
 - □ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 - Mexican American/Chicano
 - Puerto Rican
 - □ Other Latino
 - □ Other
- 39. Citizenship Status:
 - U.S. Resident
 - Permanent Resident (Green Card)
 - Neither
- 40. What was your average grade in high school? (Mark one)
 - \square A or A+
 - 🖸 A-
 - 🖸 B+
 - ОВ

- 🖸 В-
- C+
- C C
- C-
- 🖸 D
- 41. What is the highest level education that your mother completed? (Mark one)
 - Did not finish high school
 - Graduated from high school
 - C Attended college but did not complete degree
 - Completed an Associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Professional degree (J.D., M.D., etc.)
 - Complete a Doctoral degree (Ph.D.)
- 42. What is the highest level education that your father completed? (Mark one)
 - Did not finish high school
 - Graduated from high school
 - Attended college but did not complete degree
 - Completed an Associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
 - Completed a Professional degree (J.D., M.D., etc.)
 - Complete a Doctoral degree (Ph.D.)
- 43. What is your best estimate of your parents' total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes. (Mark one)
 - Less than \$10,000
 - \$10,000-14,999

- \$15,000-19,999
- \$20,000-24,999
- \$25,000-29,999
- \$30,000-39,999
- \$40,000-49,999
- \$50,000-59,999
- \$60,000-74,999
- \$75,000-99,999
- \$100,000-149,999
- \$150,000-199,999
- \$200,000-249,999
- \$250,000 or more
- 44. How many years of college did you complete before you transferred to the LMPub?
 - I Not applicable I did not transfer to LMPub.
 - 🖸 None
 - C One year completed
 - Two years completed
 - Three years completed
 - **G** Four years completed
 - More than four years completed
- 45. What type of institution did you attend before you transferred to LMPub?
 - Not applicable I did not transfer to LMPub.
 - 2-year college
 - 4-year public college/university (other than LMPub)
 - 4-year private college/university (e.g., other school names)
 - C Another LMPub campus
 - Another college on the "Big City" campus of LMPub
 - C Other:

- 46. Do any of your immediate family members hold an engineering degree? (Mark all that apply)
 - 🗖 No
 - \Box Yes, both parents
 - \Box Yes, father only
 - \Box Yes, mother only
 - \Box Yes, siblings
- 47. Please rate the extent to which you agree that each of the following is a reason why you are currently majoring in or considering majoring in engineering:

I think		Moderately Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree
engineering is		C	C	C	C	C	
interesting I am majoring in engineering for my own good	C	C		C		C	C
I am supposed to major in engineering	C	C		۵		C	C
There may be good reasons to major in engineering, but personally, I don't see any	C	C		C	C	C	6
I think engineering is pleasant		C		C	C	C	
I think engineering is good for	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

me Majoring in engineering is something that I have to do	C	C	C	C	C	C	
I am majoring in (considering majoring in) engineering, but I am not sure if it is worth it	C						
Majoring in engineering is fun		C	C	C	C	C	
It is my personal decision		C	C	C	C	C	C
I don't have any choice I don't		C	C	C	C	C	C
know. I don't see what the activity brings me			C	C	C		
I feel good when I am							
doing engineering activities		C	C	C		C	
I believe engineering is important for me		C	C	C	C	C	
I feel that I have to do it		C					
I am doing it, but am not sure it is a good thing to pursue		C	C	C	C	C	C

- 48. Of the twenty-three design activities below, please put a check mark next to the SIX MOST IMPORTANT.
 - □ Abstracting
 - □ Brainstorming
 - □ Building
 - □ Communicating
 - □ Decomposing
 - **E**valuating
 - □ Generating alternatives
 - □ Goal Setting
 - □ Identifying constraints
 - □ Imagining
 - □ Iterating
 - □ Making decisions
 - \Box Making trade-offs
 - □ Modeling
 - □ Planning
 - □ Prototyping
 - \Box Seeking information
 - □ Sketching
 - □ Synthesizing
 - □ Testing
 - \Box Understanding the problem
 - □ Using creativity
 - □ Visualizing
- 49. Of the twenty-three design activities below, please put a check mark next to the SIX LEAST IMPORTANT.
 - □ Abstracting
 - □ Brainstorming
 - Building
 - □ Communicating

- **D**ecomposing
- **E**valuating
- □ Generating alternatives
- □ Goal Setting
- □ Identifying constraints
- □ Imagining
- □ Iterating
- \square Making decisions
- \Box Making trade-offs
- □ Modeling
- Planning
- **P**rototyping
- \Box Seeking information
- □ Sketching
- □ Synthesizing
- □ Testing
- \Box Understanding the problem
- □ Using creativity
- □ Visualizing
- 50. For the following engineering design activities, please indicate your level of confidence. For example, if you have little or no confidence in your ability to model engineering solutions, then mark poor. If you are extremely confident in your ability, mark excellent.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	xcellent
Defining what the problem really is		C			
Searching for and collecting information needed to solve the problem					
Thinking up potential solutions to the problem					
Detailing how to build the solution to the problem		C			
Assessing and passing judgment on a possible or planned solution to the problem					
Comparing and contrasting two solutions to the problem on a particular dimension such as cost					

Selecting one idea or solution to the problem from among those considered	C		C	
Communicating elements of the design in sketches, diagrams, lists, and written or oral		C	C	C
reports				

51. For the following engineering design activities, please indicate how often you engaged in the activity in your coursework in the current academic year.

	Never	per	1-2 times a month	Once a week	times	Daily
Defining what the problem really is						
Searching for and collecting information needed to solve the problem						C
Thinking up potential solutions to the problem						
Detailing how to build the solution to the problem	- A					
Assessing and passing judgment on a possible or planned solution to the problem						
Comparing and contrasting two solutions to the problem on a particular dimension such as cost						C
Selecting one idea or solution to the problem from among those considered	- A					C
Communicating elements of the design in sketches, diagrams, lists, and written or oral reports				C		C

52. For the following engineering design activities, please indicate how well you think your courses are preparing you to engage in the activity. For example, if you think they are not preparing you at all, then mark poor. If you think they are preparing you extremely well, then mark excellent.



Thinking up potential solutions to the problem	C	C	
Detailing how to build the solution to the problem		C	
Assessing and passing judgment on a possible or planned solution to the problem	С		
Comparing and contrasting two solutions to the problem on a particular dimension such as cost	С		
Selecting one idea or solution to the problem from among those considered	С	C	
Communicating elements of the design in sketches, diagrams, lists, and written or oral reports	С		

- 53. From the following list, please put a check mark next to the FIVE kinds of information you would MOST LIKELY NEED as you work on a typical engineering problem.
 - Problem scope and severity
 - □ Specifications and requirements
 - □ Legal, regulatory, and industry standards
 - □ Risks and safety
 - Available budget
 - Project costs
 - □ Materials
 - Labor
 - □ Maintenance
 - □ Schedule and deadlines
 - □ Project and team coordination
 - □ User demographics and opinion
 - □ User behavior
 - □ Client who hired engineers
 - □ Other stakeholders (non-user, non-client)
 - □ Impact on natural environment
 - □ Social and physical context
 - Anticipated benefits
 - Aesthetics
 - \Box State of the art in engineering and technology

- 54. From the following list, please put a check mark next to the FIVE kinds of information you would LEAST LIKELY NEED as you work on a typical engineering problem.
 - □ Problem scope and severity
 - □ Specifications and requirements
 - □ Legal, regulatory, and industry standards
 - \Box Risks and safety
 - □ Available budget
 - Project costs
 - □ Materials
 - Labor
 - □ Maintenance
 - □ Schedule and deadlines
 - □ Project and team coordination
 - □ User demographics and opinion
 - User behavior
 - □ Client who hired engineers
 - □ Other stakeholders (non-user, non-client)
 - □ Impact on natural environment
 - □ Social and physical context
 - □ Anticipated benefits
 - Aesthetics
 - \Box State of the art in engineering and technology
- 55. Please rank the following items in terms of how important you think they are to engineering problem-solving. For each of your answers, mark a rank between 1 and 6. A rank of "1" indicates the most important item and "6" indicates the least important item. Use each number only once.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Economic context						O
Global context						C
Natural context						O
Societal context						O
Technological context	C		C		C	C

Political context 🖸 🖸 🖸 🖸 🖸

- 56. What is your expected grade point average this academic term?
 - **C** A or A+(3.9-4.0)
 - C A- (3.5-3.8)
 - **B**+ (3.2-3.4)
 - **B** (2.9-3.1)
 - **D** B- (2.5-2.8)
 - C+ (2.2-2.4)
 - C (1.9-2.1)
 - C- (1.5-1.8)
 - \square D (less than 1.4)
- 57. What are your summer plans?



Academic Pathways Study of Engineering Education: Large Midwestern Public University Focus Group Discussion Guide (April 5, 2007)

Introduction

Good evening, thanks for taking time to help us with this study.

My name is **[name of researcher]** and I am working for the **[name of department]**, along with engineering schools at **four other universities** around the country. We are studying the experiences of engineering students so we can find ways to improve the education process.

You were invited because, **obviously**, **you are engineering students** and we want to hear about **your experiences and your opinions** of your education programs.

There are **no right or wrong answers** and we expect you will have different points of view about and different experiences. Please feel free to tell us about your experiences **even if they are different** from others. And we want to hear negative as well as positive comments.

We are **tape recording** this session because we don't want to miss any comments. Be assured that all your **information is confidential** and no one will be identified in the final report. I have **consent forms** here, if you want.

The **name tents** are only for this discussion to help me remember your names and help you follow up on other peoples' comments. **If you agree or disagree**, please say so. **Don't feel like you have to talk to me** all the time, this is a discussion with you guys as the experts.

We want to **hear from each one** of you, so if you haven't said anything for awhile—I may call on you for your comments. If you are talking all the time, I may ask you to wait and let others talk. Feel free to **help yourself to the food** and drinks.

OK? Let's get started.

First, I'd like to know who you are, your **first name**, what is **your major**, your **hometown**, and how did you **end up choosing LMPub**.

Academic Pathways Study of Engineering Education: Large Midwestern Public University Focus Group Discussion Guide (April 5, 2007)

Pre-discuss	Fill out demographics (graduation year, major)
00:00 – 00:05	Consent Process Hand out consent process forms and allow participants to read form
00:05 – 00:10	Background Information • Overview and benefits of APS study
00:10 – 00:35	 Motivation to study engineering Why did you choose to study engineering? (motivations) Financial? Family? Societal benefit? Was anyone influential in your decision? Who? What previous exposure to and experience with engineering?
00:35 – 01:15	 Knowledge and skills of engineering Describe engineering (five words) write descriptions on post-it notes and group into categories on flip chart paper on wall What do you think engineers do at work ("a day in the life" "real world")? What knowledge do you think engineers use in daily practice? What knowledge is important for practice? What do engineers need to know to practice? What engineering-related knowledge and skills are you most confident yourself? How confident are you in solving problems with multiple solutions? How confident are you is your ability to apply math and science to solving real world problems? Experience with projects?
01:15 – 01:30	 Institutional experience (discuss satisfaction with facilities and faculty) Overall satisfaction with LMPub Satisfaction with [name of department] (facilities) Satisfaction with your interactions in classes Satisfaction with your interactions with faculty Satisfaction with your interactions with TAs Participation in non-engineering activities
01:30 – 01:50	 Managing workload How do you feel about your course load? (<i>probe for</i> pressure, stress, motivation to continue) What is the value of your course content? (<i>probe for</i> relevance)

	 Discuss engagement/disengagement with coursework Discuss participation in and value of extra-curricular activity How do you balance social and academic demands?
01:50 - 2:00	Anything else I should know? Concluding comments? Thank you.