

INTERVIEW

WITH: Robert Martello

TIME: 3:00

FILE NAME: Olin FAQs Curriculum

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FAQ: What's required in the curriculum?

ROBERT MARTELLO: At Olin we have several categories of requirements. We have some credit requirements in different areas, such as engineering, which is the largest of the categories, math and science, and arts, humanities, social sciences and entrepreneurship. Within these categories we have certain required courses, such as first year design and project based courses, a user oriented collaborative design course in the sophomore year, and a senior year consulting project that lasts the entire year and is an in-depth project experience.

FAQ: What's your teaching load?

MARTELLO: Olin has a teaching load for faculty members that we call three plus courses per year. The three courses are pretty straightforward. Each faculty member picks one semester to teach two courses, a second semester to teach a single course. On top of that, we have a plus requirement, something extra beyond your courses. This could be supervising student research

or working with students on an independent study project, or perhaps teaching a smaller, innovative course in an experimental manner.

FAQ: Where do students take arts, humanities, social sciences and entrepreneurship?

MARTELLO: Olin students take their arts, humanities, social sciences and entrepreneurship courses both at Olin and at our partner institutions. So at Olin, we offer these courses both in standalone forms, as well as in integrated forms in which a student combines arts, humanities, social science or entrepreneurship content with technical skills and content. In addition, Olin students can also take these courses at our neighboring institutions, Babson and Wellesley College, and in return, those students take some of their course work at Olin, too.

FAQ: How much choice do students have picking projects within a course?

MARTELLO: Students have varying levels of choices when it comes to selecting a project within a course. In some courses, the project or projects are specified by the instructor. So in that case, all students have a consistent experience. However, there are many other courses where students have a good degree of choice. There might be one project for the semester, or there might be multiple projects in the same course. And the students will form teams and select projects based on their own interests and skill levels.

FAQ: How much choice do students have in picking courses?

MARTELLO: Olin students generally have a great degree of choice in course selection. There are many broad requirements at Olin that students can fulfill in different ways. For example, students pick a degree, and then they choose a selection of courses within that degree to follow. They choose an arts, humanities, social sciences concentration that gives them flexibility. And there are other areas like that where there's plenty of specificity. That said, there are also some required courses at Olin that all students need to take.

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