

**Maximizing Engineering Potential & Women in Science and Engineering
Inspiring and Supporting the Next Generation of STEM Scholars**

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Abstract

The mission of Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) is to prepare first-generation, historically under-represented minority, low-income, and women engineering students to become professionals and leaders capable of tackling life-long, intellectual, socio-ethical, and career challenges in a changing world. MEP implements a strong student-centric approach toward academic retention and graduation success. By instilling behaviors that enhance the dignity and worth of all individuals and by promoting the value of personal tenacity and social responsibility, the Center strives to produce engineering professionals, scholars, and leaders of all backgrounds.

The Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program is dedicated to engaging students within Cal Poly Pomona's engineering, science and agriculture colleges. WiSE strives to recruit non-binary and female-identified students to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, foster mentorship between current students and alumni, and retain and graduate students through support and empowerment. WiSE promotes a close community for students to thrive in the classroom, in their careers, and beyond.

MEP-WiSE provides academic set-aside sections in first-year orientation courses, support/enrichment and intervention, a summer program, peer mentoring, soft-skills workshops (e.g., elevator pitch, resume critique, cover letter writing), tutoring, supplemental instruction, professional development activities (e.g., networking with engineering company representatives), scholarships, internships, field-trips, and participant incentives. MEP-WiSE also offers support for students interested in pursuing post-baccalaureate studies (i.e., Masters/Ph.D.).