



COLLEGE OF
CHARLESTON

Inaugural Chair of the Engineering Department

School of Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics

The new School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics (SECM) at the College of Charleston founded in 2024 invites applications for a tenured position as the inaugural Chair of the Department of Engineering at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor, with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2026. Appointment rank and tenure status will be based on the candidate's qualifications and experience.



The Position of Chair

The successful candidate will provide visionary leadership to guide the department's continued growth in academic programs, student enrollment, and national reputation. Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, high-quality teaching, and maintaining an active, productive research agenda.

Established in 2023, the Department of Engineering currently offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Systems Engineering. The systems engineering program is accredited by the EAC of ABET, and the electrical engineering program will have its initial evaluation in fall 2026. A new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Integrated Engineering and Business has been approved, and a Biomedical Engineering program is currently in the early planning stages. This position presents a unique opportunity for an innovative leader to shape a young and evolving department during an exciting period of strategic expansion.



SECM offers a friendly, dynamic, and collaborative environment, with ample opportunities for interdisciplinary partnerships across the university's ten schools, including the Schools of Business, Education, Natural & Environmental Sciences, and the School of Health Sciences. The university is located just blocks from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), providing opportunities for collaboration in medical and health-related education and research. Additionally, South Carolina is home to a growing industrial base, including leading manufacturers and a vibrant environment for technology innovation.



Major Responsibilities

The Inaugural Chair of the Engineering Department will:

- Provide effective, cohesive, and collaborative leadership for a multi-disciplinary department, prioritizing strategies for student success and academic distinction
- Develop strategic vision and planning for the department, supporting the university's goal to become a transformative national university that redefines liberal arts education through innovation
- Develop and maintain the enrollment and student success goals for each program
- Develop and oversee the department budget
- Manage course schedules and instructor assignments
- Foster professional growth and development of faculty and staff members within the department
- Oversee curriculum development and revisions for the department
- Assess academic programs offered by the department, ensuring the academic quality and rigor of the programs are maintained and continuously improved
- Attain and maintain professional accreditation where appropriate
- Foster cooperative and collaborative relationships and activities with other departments and units in the university
- Create and maintain collaborations with industry and other external partners and develop internship and employment opportunities for students
- Oversee an effective industrial advisory board

Required Qualifications

- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent in engineering. Priority will be given to candidates with expertise in systems engineering, mechanical engineering, robotics, mechatronics, or a related field.
- Candidates must be eligible for appointment with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor
- A strong commitment to undergraduate education
- A record of scholarship commensurate with rank sought
- At least 7 years of experience in an academic setting
- Prior experience in academic leadership roles, such as department chair or director/coordinator of a program/center or major departmental activity
- Experience supervising and mentoring faculty and staff
- Knowledge and appreciation of a variety of engineering disciplines, as well as disciplines across the academy
- Knowledge of, or experience with, ABET accreditation
- Curriculum, facility, and lab development experience
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Preferred Qualifications

- Interdisciplinary experience inside and outside of engineering disciplines
- Program development experience
- Experience working with industry and external partners



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The Engineering Department at the College of Charleston is at the beginning of its ascent and expansion. Consequently, the Inaugural Chair will have the unique opportunity to shape and direct a new and growing department.

The Department currently offers Electrical and Systems Engineering degrees, with approved plans to implement a degree in Integrated Engineering and Business and to develop a Biomedical Engineering degree. The Chair will have the opportunity to create an exciting vision for the future of engineering at the College of Charleston and work collaboratively with the engineering faculty to implement that vision. With the ongoing expansion of the Department, there will be many strategic actions and plans to be carried out, including the hiring of new faculty, curriculum development, recruitment of students, and the establishment of collaborations with other academic units and with industry.

Being in the Charleston area with its vibrant industrial base represents an outstanding opportunity for the Inaugural Department Chair to establish additional ties with local engineering companies. These include companies in the sectors of aerospace, automotive, construction, defense, electronics, energy, healthcare, software development, and others. Students and faculty alike will benefit from these future connections that will support and enhance the various research and educational activities of the Department, all of which will be overseen by the Inaugural Chair.



About the College of Charleston

Founded in 1770, the College of Charleston is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in the United States. Situated in the heart of historic Charleston, South Carolina, the College is renowned for its commitment to academic excellence, its rich history, and its vibrant campus life.

Academic Excellence and Innovation

The College of Charleston offers a diverse array of undergraduate and graduate programs across nine schools. Our academic community is characterized by a strong emphasis on undergraduate education, supported by a commitment to research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. We pride ourselves on providing a rigorous and supportive learning environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and personal growth. Our faculty members are dedicated educators and accomplished scholars who engage students in meaningful research and experiential learning opportunities.

Historic and Dynamic Campus

Our campus is an inspiring blend of historic charm and modern facilities. The College's main campus, located in the historic district of Charleston, features beautiful 18th-century architecture alongside state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, and student spaces. This unique setting not only enhances the educational experience but also offers students a vibrant cultural and social environment. The city of Charleston, known for its rich history, culinary excellence, and dynamic arts scene, further enriches the student experience and provides a stimulating backdrop for academic and personal development.



Community and Culture

At the College of Charleston, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive community where students, faculty, and staff collaborate to create a thriving academic environment. We value diversity and strive to ensure that all members of our community feel valued and supported. Our commitment to community engagement is reflected in our numerous partnerships with local organizations, as well as our emphasis on service, learning, and civic responsibility.

Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, the College of Charleston is poised to build on its storied legacy while embracing innovation and growth. We are committed to enhancing our academic programs, expanding our research initiatives, and strengthening our community connections. As we continue to evolve, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide a transformative educational experience that prepares our students for success in an ever-changing world.



We remain steadfast in our mission to provide a transformative educational experience that prepares our students for success in an ever-changing world.

The City of Charleston

Charleston is the oldest and largest city in South Carolina, known for its rich history, well-preserved architecture, and charming cobblestone streets. It is where historic charm meets modern innovation, where opportunity overflows with culture. It is a major port city on the Atlantic coast and known for its historic landmarks like the French Quarter and Fort Sumter. It is famous for its historic downtown on a peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper Rivers along with its modern culinary and cultural scene.

Charleston is America's original artists' colony. Throughout its 300-plus-year history, the city has been a playground for painters, jazz musicians, playwrights and more. This is where the New World's first public theater was established, as well as the country's first resident ballet company and its first museum.

As an arts, outdoor and culinary destination, Charleston hosts several events throughout the year that one might expect in a city twice its size. Among these events are the Spoleto Festival USA, the Cooper River Bridge Run, and the Charleston Wine + Food Festival.



NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

AGB Search is pleased to assist the College of Charleston with this leadership search.

To apply for the position of Department Chair of Engineering, candidates are requested to submit the following: 1) a curriculum vitae or resume; 2) a letter of application addressing your fit with the position and the College of Charleston; 3) statements of teaching, research, and leadership philosophies; and 4) contact information (email and phone) for five references including the candidate's relationship to the referee (to be contacted at a later date with the candidate's permission).

For best consideration of applications, all materials should be submitted by **March 10, 2026**, to the AGB Search Portal: [Department Chair of Engineering](#)

Nominations and expressions of interest in the position of Chair of the Engineering Department are encouraged. Please direct them to CharlestonChairEngr@agbsearch.com or to the AGB search consultants listed below.

Jerome A. "Jerry" Gilbert, PhD

Executive Search Consultant

AGB Search

jerry.gilbert@agbsearch.com

662.769.1021



Concetta M. Stewart, PhD

Principal

AGB Search

Concetta.stewart@agbsearch.com

908.341.2178

EEO Statement *The College of Charleston is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of sex, gender (including gender identity and/or expression), pregnancy, race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, and other classifications protected by applicable federal, state, and local laws. For more information, please visit eop.cofc.edu.*