

Departmental BPC Plan
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Ohio University



Effective dates of Plan: 09/26/2024 - 09/26/2026

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1. Context

This is the plan for The Ohio University School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) and the Ohio University Russ College of Engineering and Technology (ENT). EECS has 16 TT faculty (1 on full-time admin), and 5 Instructional faculty. In 2021 and 2022 we awarded 45 and 51 undergraduate degrees; women represented less than 10% of these graduates. In 2023, we had an incoming class consisting of roughly 15% women. For our BPC plan we are focusing on increasing degrees awarded to undergraduate women.

2. Goals, Activities, and Measurement

This Broadening Participation in Computing Plan has 1 main goal, with 1 supporting goal. Faculty support will also be necessary to support our metric gathering and analysis (M1-M5). The main goal, **G1: Increase the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to women over the next five years compared to the last five years.** Activities A1-A14 directly supporting G1 via increased admission or retention:

The following activities are suitable for faculty members to perform in their connected BPC plan.

- A1: At the recommendation of graduating women, faculty members will investigate whether Housing can establish a dorm floor for EECS Women. (M1)
- A2: ENT has a group of students known as the “Engineering Ambassadors.” Faculty members will work with this group to reach out to women admittees after they are admitted. (M1)
- A3: Faculty members will update the departmental website, and, when relevant, their own lab websites, to ensure that women are displayed on the website, with up-to-date photos. (M1, M2)
- A4: Faculty members will work with Bobcat Student Orientation to assign women admittees to their mentors early, so that their assigned faculty mentor can reach out to contact them early to help support retention of women early in the program. (M1)
- A5: To recruit prospective students, faculty members will develop and deliver a workshop for middle/high school girls on Computer Science. (M2, M5)

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The following activities require institutional support.

- A7: The department will establish a program to fund the local student chapter of ACM-W for each visit to a high school at the level of \$200 per visit (for a maximum of 5 visits per year). (M2)
- A8: Ohio University has historically sponsored the Ohio Celebration of Women in Computing (OCWiC) at the Diamond level (\$5,250 in 2023). This provides us with the opportunity to

provide free registration for up to 12 students to attend. We will continue to support this opportunity. (M1)

- A9: The department will set aside \$5,000 to support women undergraduate authors presenting their research at conferences. (M1)
- A10: The department will use the measured data from each of these activities to update our activities the following year.

The supporting goal, **G2: By 2026, identify key points to potentially improve in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of women majors.**

G2 is supported by the following activities, *which transitively support G1*:

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- A11: Faculty members will gather data about student progress through the institution, disaggregated by gender. (M4)
- A12: Faculty members will analyze the data for each interface between the stages in the pipeline, to determine patterns correlated with enrollment trends of women.

Below are our metrics, M1-5 to assess Goals G1-2.

- M1: Faculty members will create an exit survey to identify opportunities to improve the activity. (A1-4,6-8,8-9)
- M2: Faculty members will create an entrance survey to ask the newly-admitted students whether each relevant activity increased their likelihood of attending Ohio University on a Likert Scale (strongly reduced, reduced, no effect, increased, strongly increased). (A3, 5,7)
- M5: Faculty members will create an additional survey for this event to determine how well the workshops are received by the students. Demographic information and number of attendees should be collected when appropriate. (A5)

For all activities contact Chad Mourning, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, mourning@ohio.edu.