

Engineering Mind-set

What is Engineering Mind-set Thinking?

The principles of Mind-set Thinking include several essential elements that integrate project-based, experiential learning into any existing curriculum. It encompasses not just engineering studies but focus on all social skills that connect people & society to create a better design and problem-solving solution. It's the culture & tools for thinking.

The process is not only solving problems but is able to interface with people and the community to learn and share the necessary information about the problem. This is being empathy with your customer. The mindset is breaking the problem into manageable chunks to better understand the problem, taking a system view (inputs & outputs) of the problem and seeing the right issues are addressed for the needs of the community. Its being a leader of your learning environment and taking ownership and responsibility of the project you are working on. Engineering mindset is seeing problems as opportunities and the fun in solving those problems.

- **Observation** *Learning to look through the eyes of a designer (**Engineering Lens**)*
- **Understanding** the needs of your customer/ community
- **Research** *Using objects, primary source documents, maps and other materials*
- **Creative Solutions** *Through the process of making something- a model, an object or a poster*
- **Presentation and Reflection** *Includes a verbal presentation by the designers followed by analysis and evaluation which helps to improve the design*

Adapted from Cooper-Hewitt

Engineering is **ACADEMIC GLUE** – it binds complex concepts to real-world experiences and leads to learning that sticks with students

Engineering is **CREATIVITY** – it brings out the best ideas from the students

Engineering is **GROUP WORK** –students learn to communicate and work together while they solve community, educational or world problems

Engineering is **EVERYWHERE** –students learn that engineers have designed, created or modified nearly everything they touch, wear, see and hear in their daily lives

Elements of Engineering mind-set

Culture:

- Values/ norms/ communities
- Negotiation
- Decision making
- Collaboration
- Prototyping and iteration
- Excellence

Project Formation:

- Creative and Critical thinking
- Questioning
- Reflection
- System improvement / new problems

Planning and Scheduling

- Time management
- Measurements/ Feedback
- Quality systems

Dealing/ Collaboration

- Self-control
- Flexibility
- Character traits

Problem Solving / Process

- Innovation
- Risk taking
- Entrepreneurship

Public reporting

- Reflection
- Testing idea
- Reporting
- What's next?



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As important as content knowledge is, along with the skills to apply it, something else is at least as important today: the set of attitudes, behaviors and motivations that enable knowledgeable graduates to work with others,” said Rick Miller of Olin College.

Culture

Engineers are optimistic. They are accustomed to facing problems and solving them. This optimism contrasts with the culture of criticism one often finds in some other professions. For example, lawyers are trained to imagine the worst possible outcomes and protect against them. Engineer-Designers are trained to imagine the best possible outcome that one might be able to create with a novel artifact. It is no surprise that these two groups of professionals often find themselves in a clash of cultures.

There is an urgent need for substantial improvement in the graduates’ competencies in ethical behavior and trustworthiness, teamwork and consensus building, effective communication and persuasion, entrepreneurial mindset, creativity and design thinking, empathy and social responsibility, interdisciplinary thinking and global awareness and perception,” added Miller.

Values:

Trust	Teamwork	Kindness	
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Norms:

- Break problems into small parts
- Focus on the Gap between customers need and the present condition

The Engineering mind-set process interfaces with many sets of people and needs to be listening to their requirement , It’s a circular process that continuously gets better.

Our focus is to have students take ownership and responsibility of their learning and use measurements in combination with a quality focus to strive for continuous improvements. Developing a thought process that fosters an ability to continue to have a system and reflective view of the learning process. Engineering mind-set begins with an understanding that all problems are opportunities and the bigger the problem, the bigger the opportunity (Vinod Khosla) to learn and be a creative problem solver.

The process of learning uses the system view of creating goals, setting milestones to develop a plan that tracks, using feedback to measure, the best possible outcome. Its creating a language and diagrams to represent the problem for communication to others. A culture with others will include such values as; Trust. Empathy, Curiosity, Kindness and Honesty. We will work collaborative with others to make each other successful as individuals.

The outlook of this approach is that of Bernard Gordon who states that a “Real Engineer” outlook is not just with the technical items but to make society better by using social skills to create a community to enhance the Engineering Mind-set.



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We will spend more time training to be open-minded and learning to update our beliefs in response to new data. We will practice adjusting after our mistakes, and we will invest more in the skills traditionally associated with emotional intelligence. Many experts [believe](#) that human beings will still be needed to do the jobs that require higher-order critical, creative, and innovative thinking and the jobs that require high emotional engagement to meet the needs of other human beings [Ed Hess](#) JUNE 19, 2017

Need to add: Engineering language and drawings:

Function	Input / Output	Design parameters	Scaling
Testing	Reviews	Dynamic / Static process	Feedback
Reflection	Requirements	Design	Leadership
Management	Artifacts	customer, client, stakeholder, and consumer	Deliverables
Skills			

Drawing: <https://www.wisc-online.com/learn/career-clusters/stem/eng20004/pictorial-drawings>

Functional	Schematic	Part-drawing	Block-diagram

Few people complete a formal education in engineering (B.S. degree through a Ph.D. degree) but Guru Madhavan is convinced – as am I – **that almost anyone can develop an engineer's mind-set, one that could create a significant competitive advantage for them.** *"Engineers help create "solution spaces" -- suites of possibilities that offer new choices, conveniences, and comforts -- that redefine our standard of living." They have developed a mind-set that guides and informs those efforts.*

Howard Gardner has much of value to say about multiple intelligences that have almost unlimited applications in what are often viewed as separate and [begin italics] unrelated [end italics] arts and sciences. Mudhavan agrees with Gardner: **"The engineering mind-set can be applied successfully in every walk of life because its core elements (structure, constraints, trade-offs) and its basic concepts (including recombination, optimization, efficiency, and prototyping, are equally effective in finding solutions to non-engineering challenges.** We can see all these aspects converging clearly in the work of one of the most famous film directors of all time, who studied and had a 'thorough grounding' in engineering. His early technical training had an important influence on his creations."



Madhavan points out that, for Alfred Hitchcock, everything he presented on screen “was rooted in technical logic, even creating a suspenseful cinematic moment – the immediacy and very essence of the experience that would be thrilling and ‘chilling movie audiences long before air conditioning.’” Such effects are the result of both art and science.

The Birds offers an excellent case in point. The technical issues with the movie were “prodigious,” Hitchcock said. “I mean films like *Ben Hur* and *Cleopatra* are child’s play compared to this.” Madhavan notes that live birds had to be trained for every shot and the aerodynamic principles of gliders were applied “to simulate fake bird movements. Special wire works, miniatures, and gears were used to arrive at authentic-looking shorts of the feathered actors – a Hollywood version of robotics before computers.”

Obviously, the engineer’s mind-set can help to create “suites of possibilities that offer new choices, conveniences, and comforts -- that redefine our standard of living.” It can guide and inform those efforts. But there is a higher purpose to which Madhavan refers when **suggesting that everyone is an engineer** “at some point in the way we design our destinies. That’s why it’s the responsibility of not only engineers, but just about everyone to share the future course of engineering, which is entering an era of new eclecticism. With a shared vision we can create better solution spaces, convert random motions into progress, and improve societal muscle strength to address the complexities of today and tomorrow.” **DESIGN creation of artifacts in society, Karl T. Ulrich**

<http://www.idesignthinking.com/main.html>

We live in a world that increasingly requires what psychologist Howard Gardner calls [searchlight intelligence](#). That is, the ability to connect the dots between people and ideas, where others see no possible connection. An informed perspective is more important than ever in order to anticipate what comes next and succeed in emerging futures. ... The best leaders are constant learners HBR

Education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think – Albert Einstein:

Einstein had the basic critical thinking ability of being able to cut problems down to size. It was said that “**One of his greatest intellectual gifts, in small matters as well as great, was to strip off the irrelevant frills from the problem.**”

