

# Gordon Institute of Engineering Leadership

Website (<http://www.northeastern.edu/gordonleadership/>)

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The Gordon Engineering Leadership Program (GEL) offered by the Gordon Institute of Engineering Leadership is a transformational graduate program designed to build a future corps of engineering leadership professionals. GEL seeks to accelerate leadership development capability in an engineering context through a concentrated curriculum that inculcates both the psychological skills and capabilities needed to lead engineers in parallel with technical skills to successfully engineer products to customers and markets. The program teaches relevant leadership theory followed by practice in leadership laboratories. Technical product development and scientific principles courses are followed by the completion of a market-worthy challenge project. This learning framework is supplemented with three-way mentoring from industry, faculty, and program mentors. Graduates of the program, known as Gordon Fellows, have an opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to successfully lead engineering teams. They stand out from their peers in their ability to invent, innovate, and implement engineering projects from concept to market success. Participation in GEL accelerates Gordon Fellows' careers, making them more valuable to their company.

## The Challenge

When relatively unseasoned engineers run teams or projects, most fail to satisfy all of the project's critical requirements—missing the mark in functionality, performance, quality, time-to-market, cost, or other key objectives.

This shortfall exists because engineers enter the workforce without critical skills related to:

- Competitiveness
- Taking responsibility to prevent failure
- Market and customer focus
- Influencing and motivating skills
- Interdisciplinary decision making and teamwork capability
- Simultaneous optimization of all elements of performance, quality, cost, and timing
- Front-loading the engineering process
- Financial acumen
- Big-picture engineering
- Leadership abilities and organizational social awareness
- Enterprise understanding
- Program management tools and processes
- Designing to avoid failure modes
- Designing for lean manufacture

## The Mission

GEL's mission is to create an elite cadre of engineering leaders who stand out from their peers in their ability to invent, innovate, and implement engineering projects from concept to market success.

These leaders will demonstrate an exceptional ability to lead engineering teams by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to influence others to achieve their collective goals.

## The Method

To close the gaps and realize its mission, GEL concentrates on the knowledge, skills, and abilities that reside at the intersection of engineering and leadership.

At the end of the program, Gordon Fellows emerge with the awareness, confidence, vision, and technical dexterity to drive positive change within their organizations and society.

## Admissions

GEL candidates must apply for and be admitted to both the Northeastern Graduate School of Engineering and the Gordon Engineering Leadership Program.

Students pursue GEL as part of a Master of Science degree in the engineering discipline of their choice or as a stand-alone graduate certificate. Upon completion of a Master of Science degree, students earn both the Master of Science degree in the discipline of choice and a Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership. Students who already hold a graduate degree in engineering or have greater than three years of engineering work experience can complete the program to earn a Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership. The core GEL curriculum takes place during one calendar year (September–July), and additional coursework required for the Master of Science degree can be pursued before, after, or in parallel with GEL.

## Programs

### Graduate Certificate

- Engineering Leadership (<http://catalog.northeastern.edu/archive/2021-2022/graduate/engineering/multidisciplinary/engineering-leadership-graduate-certificate/>)
- Technology Leadership (<http://catalog.northeastern.edu/archive/2021-2022/graduate/gordon-institute/technology-leadership-graduate-certificate/>)