Class Size Policy for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
June 29, 2020

In compliance with the current GEO Contract[1] (2020-2023), CEE is transparently posting our class size policy for the different types of class modalities we offer in the department: physical laboratory, computational laboratory, and lecture/recitation/discussion/seminar. In general, the maximum class size is based on the learning objectives of the class and class-type, as well as by the limitations of our facilities. The maximum class size we would establish for each class type is as follows:

Lecture/Recitation/Discussion/Seminar Class: 200 student maximum
Computational Laboratory Class: 70 students maximum per section
Traditional Laboratory Class: 35 students maximum per section.

These are general upper limits to the size of our classes. For many of our classes, we have elected smaller section sizes to enhance the educational experience for students and to accommodate classes in our physical spaces (e.g., classrooms, labs). The following table summarizes the maximum student enrollment for each section for classes with lab sections that have previously received a GSI. To associate a specific GSI:student ratio to each lab section, the table is based on the current practice of a single GSI facilitating each section of the class (with a single GSI potentially covering multiple sections of a given course).

CEE Course Number and Name[2]	Lab Section Size Limit
CEE 303 Computational Methods for Engineers and Scientists	50
CEE 312 Structural Engineering	35
CEE 325 Fluid Mechanics	25
CEE 331 Construction Management	60
CEE 345 Geotechnical Engineering	25
CEE 351 Civil Engineering Materials	25
CEE 366 Environmental Engineering Laboratory	25
CEE 375 Sensors, Circuits, and Signals	30
CEE 413 Design of Metal Structures	50
CEE 415 Design of Reinforced Concrete Structures	50

[1] Current GEO Contract (2020-2023): https://www.geo3550.org/rights-benefits/our-contract/#:~:text=The%20GEO%20is%20the%20legal,tuition%20waivers%2C%20and%20working%20conditions.

[2] Red shading corresponds to hands-on labs while green refers to computational labs

CEE 421 Hydrology and Floodplain Hydraulics	35
CEE 428 (ENSCEN 428) Groundwater Hydrology	25
CEE 435 Construction Contracting	40
CEE 450 Introduction to Transportation Engineering	40
CEE 481/581 Aquatic Chemistry	70
CEE 482/582 Environmental Microbiology	25
CEE 624 Restoration Fundamentals and Practice in Aquatic Systems	25

Any overrides to the class size policy above must be approved by the department chair. Prior to authorizing the override, acceptable accommodations will be discussed with the GSI and these might include actions such as assigning an instructional aide (IA) or reducing other tasks assigned to the GSI (e.g., grading, office hours, etc.).

GEO Contract.

Article XVII: Class Size

Recognizing that the size of classes has an impact on the workload of the Employee, the University and the Union agree that:

1. At the Union's request, once during each of Terms I and II, each department chairperson, or designee, shall arrange a meeting with interested Employees in the department and with the Union Representative, designated pursuant to Article XVI, to discuss class size.

2. Each department employing GSIs will establish a class size policy for classes to which GSIs are assigned. This class policy will include, but not need be limited to, the maximum number of students in each section (recognizing the potential for reduction within sections with regard to programmatic need) and the maximum ratio of students to GSIs.

The class size policy will be provided to any Employee upon request.

3. The department will have available, in writing, the method(s) for handling override authorization forms and person(s) who are authorized signers. No GSI shall be required to accept enrollees in excess of the maximum class or section size. Should a GSI wish to add enrollees beyond the established maximum, there will be no presumption of a change in appointment fraction.

This text is taken from page 78 of the GEO Contract April 16, 2020 – May 1, 2023