

Molecular Engineering

Department Website: <http://ime.uchicago.edu/students/undergraduates>

Engineering is the science of solving complex technological problems and, in the case of molecular engineering, using tools and concepts that arise from the fundamentals of science at the nanoscale. The tools of engineering are important in making and translating basic discoveries in other fields into new intellectual opportunities and, sometimes, useful technologies.

Institute for Molecular Engineering

The Institute for Molecular Engineering (IME) is founded on the principle of collaborative problem-solving, not rigid academic disciplines. It is at the forefront of an emerging field that has the potential to address fundamental problems of societal import. This exciting new field involves the incorporation of synthetic molecular building blocks into functional systems that will impact technologies from advanced medical therapies to quantum computing.

Created in partnership with Argonne National Laboratory, the IME builds on the tradition of collaboration and cutting-edge research well established at Argonne and the University of Chicago. It conducts research at the intersection of chemical, electrical, mechanical, and biological engineering, as well as materials, biological, and physical sciences. The institute's exploration of innovative technologies in nanoscale manipulation and design at a molecular scale has the potential for impact in such areas as energy, health care, and the environment.

Major Program in Molecular Engineering

The BS degree program in Molecular Engineering offers undergraduates a cutting-edge engineering curriculum built on a strong foundation in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology. Courses are designed to develop quantitative reasoning and problem-solving skills; to introduce engineering analysis of physical, chemical, and biological systems; and to address open-ended technological questions across a spectrum of disciplines. The program will both prepare undergraduates for a wide variety of careers in technology-focused industries and position graduates for further postgraduate study in such fields as science, engineering, medicine, business, or law. The aim is to introduce invention and design, along with inquiry and discovery, as fruitful and complementary intellectual activities.

Majors are able to choose from three quantitative engineering analysis tracks: one aimed at engineering with a chemical and soft materials emphasis, one with a focus on biology, and one geared toward applied physics. The applied physics track, offered in close collaboration with the Department of Physics, is one of the first initiatives worldwide to formally educate quantum engineers at the undergraduate level. MENG 29500 Engineering Design is a 300-unit design course offered as a capstone, in which student teams spend an intensive quarter working with a faculty mentor to solve an open-ended problem, for example, analyzing chemical and biological properties of cancer cells to develop new treatment and delivery vehicles or harnessing the properties of electrons in materials to develop quantum information technologies. The course also combines technical skills with an exploration of economics, regulatory and legal issues, and ethics.

Major Program Requirements

1. A strong and broad background in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology. It is imperative for a modern engineer to have a strong and broad background in the sciences. Traditional engineering disciplines have had requirements in math, chemistry, and physics for decades and many programs have evolved to require biology as well. The highly interdisciplinary nature of Molecular Engineering requires a foundation built across the mathematical, physical, and biological sciences. Students are encouraged to complete their general education requirements at the highest level for which they are prepared. This will position them better to take advantage of advanced electives and research opportunities.

As discussed in more detail below, there will be three tracks for Molecular Engineering majors: the Chemical & Soft Materials Track, the Biological Sciences Track, and the Quantum Track. Students in the first two tracks will follow precedents set by Chemistry and Biological Sciences majors in that they will likely take chemistry in year 1, physics in year 2, and follow the recommended mathematics courses in the Chemistry curriculum. Students in the quantum track will follow precedent set by Physics majors in that they will likely take physics in year 1, follow the mathematics guidelines of Physics majors, and take chemistry in year 2.

2. MENG 26030 Introduction to Engineering Analysis. One of the first courses for all Molecular Engineering majors, this course teaches students to apply mathematical methods towards solving problems that cut across multiple engineering sub-disciplines. A major objective of the course is to teach simple programming skills and computational methods in applied mathematics, including the use of engineering software such as Matlab, Mathematica, Comsol, and elements of Python. The skills that are introduced here will be further developed and strengthened throughout the rest of the curriculum.

3. Three Molecular Engineering tracks. Reflecting the research and education themes of the IME, three highly intertwined but recognizably different tracks for the major are available to students. One is aimed at preparing students oriented towards biological engineering, another is aimed toward chemical and soft materials, and the other is aimed at preparing students oriented towards engineering of quantum-based materials, devices, and processes. The latter track is offered in close collaboration with the Department of Physics. The main differences in the tracks relate to a choice between two sequences of three courses under the heading of quantitative engineering analysis and in the requirements for advanced electives.

4. MENG 29500 Engineering Design (300-unit capstone course). This “immersion” design course teaches students how to bring combinations of fundamental science and engineering together to solve open-ended and challenging engineering problems. It also serves as a vehicle to teach other equally important non-technical skills, including:

- Problem identification: technology analysis, competitive analysis, market analysis, stakeholder analysis, product definition
- Impact of the project, including sociological and engineering ethics
- Project planning
- Project economics: costs, value/investment analysis, risk analysis and adjustment
- Prototyping, experimental design, data analysis, error analysis
- IP: patenting, prior art, patentability
- Legal and regulatory analysis
- Proposing, presenting and reporting
- Teamwork

IME faculty and fellows will propose open-ended projects for which they will serve as mentors. Students will work together in groups of three.

5. Advanced electives (3 required courses in the major). The major is offered in such a way as to allow for considerable flexibility for students to tailor their programs along individualized trajectories, with help from faculty advisors. Not only can students choose between multiple tracks, but they can further build breadth or depth through their choice of and advanced electives. Moreover, we anticipate that our students will use their general electives outside of the major requirements to strengthen their backgrounds in specific areas of interest, also in consultation with Molecular Engineering advisors, to achieve desired outcomes such as preparation for graduate school in more traditional engineering disciplines.

6. Laboratory skills and hands-on experience. Critical skills that molecular engineers must acquire as part of their educational program include the ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science, and engineering and the ability to design and conduct experiments, as well as the ability to analyze and interpret data. Molecular Engineering majors develop these skills through lab components associated with required courses in the physical and biological sciences, Molecular Engineering courses including MENG 26101-26102 Transport Phenomena I: Forces + Flows; Transport Phenomena II, MENG 26201-26202 Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics I-II, MENG 29500 Engineering Design, and some of the advanced electives such as MENG 27300 Polymer Physics and Engineering. We also anticipate that many Molecular Engineering students will receive advanced laboratory experience pursuing undergraduate research projects.

7. Non-technical skills. Many decades of workshops and panels engaging stakeholders in academia and industry, often associated with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), have identified criteria for outcomes of students in accredited engineering education programs. Although there is no thought of seeking ABET accreditation for the Molecular Engineering major, many ABET criteria, particularly those related to non-technological skills, are viewed as essential to incorporate into the Molecular Engineering major. Examples of student outcomes that fall into this category include: (a) an ability to formulate or design a system, process, or program to meet desired needs, (b) an ability to function on multidisciplinary teams, (c) an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility, (d) an ability to communicate effectively, (e) the broad education necessary to understand the impact of solutions in a global and societal context, (f) a recognition of the need for and an ability to engage in life-long learning, and (g) a knowledge of contemporary issues. Many of these outcomes will be addressed through both the Molecular Engineering degree curriculum (emphasized in the design sequence and the research colloquium) and the College general education requirements. Students who are able to both develop and articulate these skills will be positioned favorably for employment in industry and for postgraduate study (engineering, medicine, law, and business administration).

Entering the Program

Students must indicate their intent to pursue the BS program at the end of the Autumn Quarter in their second year of study by completing the *Intent to Pursue Molecular Engineering* questionnaire (available on the IME website). They begin the engineering curriculum in the following Spring Quarter with enrollment in either MENG 26010 Engineering Principles of Conservation or MENG 26020 Engineering Electrodynamics. Both courses require the completion of their stated prerequisites. Students should work with their advisors early in their first year of study to plan for those prerequisites to be completed in a timely manner.

Summary of Requirements for the Major in Molecular Engineering: Chemical and Soft Materials Track

GENERAL EDUCATION

CHEM 10100 & CHEM 10200	Introductory General Chemistry I and Introductory General Chemistry II (or higher) ¹	200
One of the following sequences:		200
MATH 13100-13200	Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II (requires a grade of A- or higher)	
MATH 15100-15200	Calculus I-II ¹	
MATH 16100-16200	Honors Calculus I-II	
One of the following sequences:		200
BIOS 10602 & BIOS 10603	Multiscale Modeling of Biological Systems I and Multiscale Modeling of Biological Systems II	

BIOS 20186-20187	Fundamentals of Cell and Molecular Biology; Fundamentals of Genetics ²	
BIOS 20234-20235	Molecular Biology of the Cell; Biological Systems ³	
Total Units		600
MAJOR		
CHEM 11300	Comprehensive General Chemistry III (or higher) ¹	100
PHYS 13100-13200-13300	Mechanics; Electricity and Magnetism; Waves, Optics, and Heat (or higher)	300
One of the following sets of three courses:		300
MATH 13300 Elementary Functions and Calculus III OR MATH 15300 Calculus III OR MATH 16300 Honors Calculus III OR MATH 19620 Linear Algebra, AND MATH 20000-20100 Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I-II ⁴		
OR		
MATH 16300 Honors Calculus III, AND MATH 20500 Analysis in Rn III OR MATH 20900 Honors Analysis in Rn III, AND MATH 27300 Basic Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations		
MENG 26010	Engineering Principles of Conservation	100
MENG 26030	Introduction to Engineering Analysis	100
MENG 26101-26102	Transport Phenomena I: Forces + Flows; Transport Phenomena II	200
MENG 26201-26202	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics I-II	200
MENG 29501	Undergraduate Research Colloquium	000
MENG 29500	Engineering Design	300
Three advanced electives selected in consultation with the advisor for the Chemical and Soft Materials Track. ⁵		300
Total Units		1900

¹ Credit may be granted by examination.

² Molecular Engineering majors can take these courses without the Biological Sciences prerequisites (BIOS 20150-20151) unless they pursue a double major in the Biological Sciences. They are expected to show competency in mathematical modeling of biological phenomena covered in BIOS 20151 Introduction to Quantitative Modeling in Biology (Basic).

³ Open only to students with a 4 or 5 on the AP Biology exam. Upon completion of BIOS 20234-20235-20236 Molecular Biology of the Cell; Biological Systems; Biological Dynamics, students will be awarded a total of 200 units to be counted toward the general education requirement in the biological sciences.

⁴ MATH 13300 requires a grade of A- or higher.

⁵ Students should seek approval for their major electives before registering for and completing the course.

Summary of Requirements for the Major in Molecular Engineering: Biology Track

GENERAL EDUCATION

CHEM 10100 & CHEM 10200	Introductory General Chemistry I and Introductory General Chemistry II (or higher) ¹	200
One of the following sequences:		200
MATH 13100-13200	Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II (requires a grade of A- or higher)	
MATH 15100-15200	Calculus I-II ¹	
MATH 16100-16200	Honors Calculus I-II	
One of the following sequences:		200
BIOS 20186-20187	Fundamentals of Cell and Molecular Biology; Fundamentals of Genetics ²	
BIOS 20234-20235	Molecular Biology of the Cell; Biological Systems ³	
Total Units		600

MAJOR

CHEM 11300	Comprehensive General Chemistry III (or higher) ¹	100
PHYS 13100-13200-13300	Mechanics; Electricity and Magnetism; Waves, Optics, and Heat (or higher)	300
One of the following sets of three courses:		300
MATH 13300 Elementary Functions and Calculus III OR MATH 15300 Calculus III OR MATH 16300 Honors Calculus III OR MATH 19620 Linear Algebra, AND MATH 20000-20100 Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I-II ⁴		
OR		
MATH 16300 Honors Calculus III, AND MATH 20500 Analysis in Rn III OR MATH 20900 Honors Analysis in Rn III, AND MATH 27300 Basic Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations		

MENG 26010	Engineering Principles of Conservation	100
MENG 26030	Introduction to Engineering Analysis	100
MENG 26101-26102	Transport Phenomena I: Forces + Flows; Transport Phenomena II	200
MENG 26201-26202	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics I-II	200
MENG 29501	Undergraduate Research Colloquium	000
MENG 29500	Engineering Design	300
Three advanced electives selected in consultation with the Biology Track advisor (at least two should be in the Biological Sciences above BIOS 20242). ⁵		300
Total Units		1900

¹ Credit may be granted by examination.

² Molecular Engineering majors can take these courses without the Biological Sciences prerequisites (BIOS 20150-20151) unless they pursue a double major in the Biological Sciences. They are expected to show competency in mathematical modeling of biological phenomena covered in BIOS 20151 Introduction to Quantitative Modeling in Biology (Basic).

³ Open only to students with a 4 or 5 on the AP Biology exam. Upon completion of BIOS 20234-20235-20236, students will be awarded a total of 200 units to be counted toward the general education requirement in the biological sciences.

⁴ MATH 13300 requires a grade of A- or higher.

⁵ Students should seek approval for their major electives before registering for and completing the course.

Summary of Requirements for the Major in Molecular Engineering: Quantum Track

GENERAL EDUCATION

PHYS 13100-13200	Mechanics; Electricity and Magnetism (or higher)	200
One of the following sequences:		200
MATH 13100-13200	Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II (requires a grade of A- or higher)	
MATH 15100-15200	Calculus I-II ¹	
MATH 16100-16200	Honors Calculus I-II	
Total Units		400

MAJOR

PHYS 13300	Waves, Optics, and Heat (or higher)	100
One of the following:		100
MATH 13300	Elementary Functions and Calculus III (requires a grade of A- or higher)	
MATH 15300	Calculus III	
MATH 16300	Honors Calculus III	
PHYS 22000	Introduction to Mathematical Methods in Physics	
CHEM 10100 & CHEM 10200 & CHEM 11300	Introductory General Chemistry I and Introductory General Chemistry II and Comprehensive General Chemistry III (or higher) ¹	300
One of the following:		100
PHYS 22100	Mathematical Methods in Physics	
MATH 20500	Analysis in Rn III	
MATH 20900	Honors Analysis in Rn III	
PHYS 15400	Modern Physics	100
PHYS 23400-23500	Quantum Mechanics I-II	200
MENG 26020	Engineering Electrodynamics	100
MENG 26030	Introduction to Engineering Analysis	100
One of the following sets of two courses: ²		200
MENG 26201-26202	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics I-II	
OR		
PHYS 19700 Statistical and Thermal Physics AND PHYS 23600 Solid State Physics OR PHYS 25000 Computational Physics OR CHEM 26300 Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics		
OR		
CHEM 26200 Thermodynamics AND PHYS 23600 Solid State Physics OR PHYS 25000 Computational Physics OR CHEM 26300 Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics		
MENG 29501	Undergraduate Research Colloquium	000

MENG 29500	Engineering Design	300
Three advanced electives selected in consultation with the Quantum Track advisor.		300
Total Units		1900

¹ Credit may be granted by examination; consult quantum track advisor.

² Note: PHYS 19700 requires, and CHEM 26200 expects, prior experience with intermediate quantum mechanics; these options are well-suited to, but not exclusively for, students double-majoring in Physics or Chemistry.

Approved Quantum Track Advanced Electives

All 20000-level Molecular Engineering courses not otherwise required for the major (except those numbered MENG 20XXX and 29XXX)

All 20000-level Physics courses (except PHYS 29100-29200-29300 and PHYS 29700)

Courses in Mathematics and Statistics (no more than two to be used as program electives):

MATH 20400	Analysis in Rn II
or MATH 20800	Honors Analysis in Rn II
MATH 20500	Analysis in Rn III (Neither MATH 20500 nor MATH 20900 can be counted toward electives if substituted for PHYS 22100.)
or MATH 20900	Honors Analysis in Rn III
MATH 27000	Basic Complex Variables
MATH 27200	Basic Functional Analysis
MATH 27300	Basic Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations
MATH 27400	Introduction to Differentiable Manifolds and Integration on Manifolds
MATH 27500	Basic Theory of Partial Differential Equations
STAT 23400	Statistical Models and Methods
or STAT 24400	Statistical Theory and Methods I
STAT 24500	Statistical Theory and Methods II

Other courses in the physical sciences:

CHEM 26300	Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics
CHEM 26800	Computational Chemistry and Biology
CMSC 23710	Scientific Visualization
CMSC 28510	Introduction to Scientific Computing
GEOS 21200	Physics of the Earth
GEOS 23200	Climate Dynamics of the Earth and Other Planets

Courses in the biological sciences:

BIOS 29326	Introduction to Medical Physics and Medical Imaging
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Courses not listed here can satisfy the elective requirement if explicitly approved, on a case-by-case basis, by the program advisor for the IME Quantum Track.

Sample Major Programs

Below is a *sample four-year program for the Chemical and Soft Materials Track*. Students should rely on relevant placement tests and on the direction of the College advisors in creating a personal four-year program that accommodates their individual backgrounds and interests. Again, we recommend that students complete their science and mathematics general education requirements at the highest level for which they are prepared.

First Year

Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
MATH 15100	MATH 15200	MATH 15300
CHEM 11100	CHEM 11200	CHEM 11300

Second Year

Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
PHYS 13100	PHYS 13200	PHYS 13300
MATH 20000	MATH 20100	MENG 26010
BIOS 20186	BIOS 20187	

Third Year

Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
MENG 26101	MENG 26102	MENG 26202
MENG 26030	MENG 26201	Advanced Elective

Fourth Year

Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
MENG 29501	MENG 29500	Advanced Elective

Advanced Elective

Below is a sample four-year program for the Quantum Track. Students should rely on relevant placement tests and on the direction of the College advisors in creating a personal four-year program that accommodates their individual backgrounds and interests. Again, we recommend that students complete their science and mathematics general education requirements at the highest level for which they are prepared.

First Year		
Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
MATH 15100	MATH 15200	MATH 15300
PHYS 14100	PHYS 14200	PHYS 14300
Second Year		
Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
CHEM 11100	CHEM 11200	CHEM 11300
PHYS 22100		MENG 26020
PHYS 15400		PHYS 23400
Third Year		
Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
MENG 26030	MENG 26201	MENG 26202
PHYS 23500	Advanced Elective	Advanced Elective
Fourth Year		
Autumn Quarter	Winter Quarter	
MENG 29501	MENG 29500	

Advanced Elective

Minor Program in Molecular Engineering

The minor program in molecular engineering is designed for undergraduates majoring in physical or biological science, mathematics, computer science, economics, or related fields. The overall objective of the program is to provide basic engineering tools and ways of thinking to students that augment scientific approaches and problem solving skills.

Minor Program Requirements

Before a student can declare the minor in molecular engineering, the student must complete the general education requirements in mathematics and physical sciences along with the course prerequisites for MENG 26010 Engineering Principles of Conservation. Following completion of all requirements, students may apply to the director of undergraduate studies of the Institute for Molecular Engineering for admission into the minor in molecular engineering program.

A student must receive the director of undergraduate studies' approval of the minor program on a form obtained from the student's College adviser. Once signed by the director, this form must then be returned to the student's College adviser by the end of Spring Quarter of the student's third year.

To earn the minor in molecular engineering, a student must complete six courses as outlined below. Advanced electives must be chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. All courses in molecular engineering are pre-approved as advanced electives for the minor. Students should seek pre-approval for all advanced electives that are outside of molecular engineering. Before meeting with the director, students should invest some thought into which courses they would like to complete for the minor and how those courses relate as a set.

Courses in the minor program may not be (1) double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors, or (2) counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Summary of Requirements for the Minor in Molecular Engineering

MENG 26010	Engineering Principles of Conservation	100
MENG 26030	Introduction to Engineering Analysis	100
One of the following sequences:		200
MENG 26201-26202	Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics I-II	
MENG 26101-26102	Transport Phenomena I: Forces + Flows; Transport Phenomena II	
MENG 26101 & MENG 26201	Transport Phenomena I: Forces and Flows and Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics I	
Two advanced electives selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. **		200
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Total Units		600

** Students must secure approval before enrolling in courses they wish to use as advanced electives in the minor program.

Minor Program in Molecular Engineering Technology and Innovation

The overall objective of the minor program in Molecular Engineering Technology and Innovation is to introduce basic engineering concepts as they relate to evolving technologies, scientific innovation and entrepreneurship, scientific policy,

and the broader impacts of engineering in society. The minor program is open to undergraduates from any major interested in these topics.

Minor Program Requirements

Students must complete the general education requirements in mathematics and physical sciences before declaring the minor in Molecular Engineering Technology and Innovation. Following completion of these requirements, students must meet with Mark Stoykovich (stoykovich@uchicago.edu) of the Institute for Molecular Engineering to plan a course of study for the minor. This meeting is mandatory and students who fail to have it may not be allowed to complete the minor. Prior to the meeting, students should invest some thought into which courses they would like to complete for the minor and how those courses relate as a set. The student and Dr. Stoykovich will fill out the Consent to Complete a Minor form jointly, and once the form is signed the student must bring it to the student's College adviser. Deviations from the course plan agreed upon in the Consent to Complete a Minor form require the approval of Dr. Stoykovich and submission of a revised Consent to Complete a Minor form prior to their implementation.

To earn the minor in Molecular Engineering Technology and Innovation, a student must complete six courses as outlined below. Advanced electives must be chosen in consultation with Dr. Stoykovich. All courses in Molecular Engineering are pre-approved as advanced electives for the minor.

Courses in the minor program may not be (1) double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors, or (2) counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Summary of Requirements for the Minor in Molecular Engineering Technology and Innovation

MENG 20000	Introduction to Emerging Technologies	100
2 to 5 additional courses in Molecular Engineering		200-500
0 to 3 elective courses selected in consultation with the IME adviser *		000-300
Total Units		600

* The following courses are pre-approved for the minor: BIOS 11140, BUSF 34103, BUSF 34106, BUSF 42703, ECON 22600, ECON 22650, ENST 23900, ENST 24705, ENST 26420, HIPS 17502, HIPS 21301, HIPS 25506, PBPL 21800, PBPL 23100, PBPL 24701, PBPL 29000, PHSC 12400, PHSC 12500. Students must secure approval before enrolling in courses that they wish to use as electives in the minor program and that are not on this pre-approved list.

Grading

In order to qualify for the BS degree, a GPA of 2.0 or higher (with no grade lower than C-) is needed in all courses required in the major. Students majoring in Molecular Engineering must receive quality grades in all courses required in the degree program. All courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades. Nonmajors and nonminors may take Molecular Engineering courses on a P/F basis; only grades of C- or higher constitute passing work.

Honors

Students who pursue a substantive research project with a faculty member of the Institute for Molecular Engineering are encouraged to write and defend an honors thesis based on their work. Students who wish to be considered for honors are expected to complete their arrangements with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of their third year and to register for one quarter of MENG 29700 Undergraduate Research for Molecular Engineering during their third or fourth years.

To be eligible to receive honors, students in the BS degree program must write a creditable honors paper describing their research. The paper must be submitted before the deadline established by the director of undergraduate studies and must be approved by the department chairperson. In addition, an oral presentation of the research is required. The research paper or project used to meet this requirement may not be used to meet the BA/BS paper or project requirement in another major.

To earn a BS degree with honors in Molecular Engineering, students must also have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.



Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.