

Amanda Basantis ('19) is an engineer at the Jersey shore

Amanda Basantis was born in Mount Holly, NJ. She grew up in Medford Lakes, NJ. Her mother is director of Outreach for the College of Engineering at Rowan University.¹ Her father was an engineer at Boeing, in Ridley, PA, now retired. Her parents are both engineers who met at Boeing. Amanda's older sister obtained a Mechanical Engineering degree from Rowan and then completed a Biomedical Engineering Master's degree at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. She works at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Baltimore, MD. Her younger brother completed an engineering degree at Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ. He is now working on a Master's of Engineering Management in the online program at Rowan.



Amanda completed her Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering degree in 2019. She immediately went to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA and completed a Master's in Civil Engineering in 2021. Amanda now works at the United States Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, NJ, the Nation's only Coast Guard Recruit Training Center. She is a project engineer, part of the design team responsible for on-base projects from maintenance of existing facilities to new construction. She is currently working on a project to rebuild Travel Lift piers used to remove ships from the water for maintenance. The design team works on a variety of projects, including dredging channels, beach replenishment, and construction or rehabilitation of existing buildings and infrastructure.

Amanda loves the beach and now gets to work in Cape May!

From a young age, I was familiar with Rowan University because my mom worked there, and I frequently spent time on campus. I always had the idea that I might attend Rowan. Over the years, I witnessed the remarkable growth of the college, starting with the construction of the new Engineering Hall and expanding to include additional engineering disciplines, faculty, and research opportunities. Rowan seemed to be the perfect size—not too big, not too small—and was clearly excelling academically. The professors knew you by name and were genuinely invested in your success. Plus, it was very affordable, and I was fortunate enough to live on campus and be a part of the Rowan Swim and Dive Team!

I excelled in math and science but wasn't entirely certain about my career path. Encouraged by my family, I leaned towards engineering. Civil Engineering stood out to me due to its wide-ranging applications, from environmental concerns to constructing buildings and structures. I am happy I chose Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Professor Jahan served as an invaluable mentor to me throughout my years at Rowan. I had the privilege of being part of her Engineers on Wheels² Engineering Clinic³ team during my junior and senior years. I enjoyed introducing middle schoolers to the world of engineering and sparking their interest in the field. Under Professor Jahan's guidance, I also had the opportunity

to attend conferences and explore various aspects of engineering. She was aware of my passion for the beach, stemming from my summers spent as a lifeguard in Sea Isle City, NJ, and my involvement in the Rowan Swim team for two years. Professor Jahan often reminded me, "You can be a civil engineer at the beach." Inspired by her words, I looked for job opportunities at the beach and ultimately found myself in Cape May, NJ

Reflecting on my time at Rowan, I can confidently say they were some of the best years of my life so far. I cherished the small, close-knit classes and the relationships with classmates and professors. When I walked in the Engineering Building, I could see my fellow classmates working on homework and clinic projects in the various study rooms and would never hesitate to stick my head in and say hello or ask for help. We were a community.

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-3-25

1. The Engineering Outreach Office "is actively engaged in outreach activities leading to partnerships with organizations, corporations and entrepreneurs. These alliances have created synergistic opportunities where students get real-world, hands-on experiences through industry-based projects and exciting summer internships. These collaborations also lead to career placement opportunities upon graduation, contributing to the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering's success in placing engineering students."
2. "The goal of [Engineers on Wheels] is to get K-12 students interested in engineering at an early age and keep them interested. Through the projects they work on with Engineers on Wheels, students in area schools learn not only what engineering is but also how it can be fun and creative...Students and professors from the College of Engineering use their colorful, specially outfitted vans to provide students with that interactive experience."
3. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering's place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.