Expanding Human Horizons

Aerospace engineers create technologies that connect our world, and beyond. For example, they develop ways to make air travel safer and more environmentally friendly and design technology that improves homeland security. To the far reaches of space, aerospace engineers push the boundaries of what is possible.

Destination of Choice

Topics covered in the aerospace engineering curriculum include space flight and exploration, and aircraft and spacecraft design, performance, propulsion and materials selection. Undergraduate students at all levels have opportunities to work alongside expert faculty and graduate students in unparalleled research labs, such as wind tunnels with capabilities varying from slower than the speed of sound to 5 times faster. They work on projects ranging from space robotics to satellite propulsion and super-rapid flight.

Stellar Careers

UA aerospace engineering graduates are scientists, astronauts, inventors and entrepreneurs. They are employed in the space, commercial aerospace, and defense industries with companies and organizations such as NASA, Space-X, Boeing, Blue Origin, Raytheon and Honeywell. Fortune ranks aerospace engineering as the No. 3 highest-paying college major. The median salary is more than $122,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
This is one of the greatest times to be an aerospace engineer. A degree in aerospace engineering opens opportunities to work in some of the most exciting fields that define the future of humankind. UA aerospace engineering students graduate with experience working on prominent government and industry projects using state-of-the-art facilities.

Farzad Mashayek, department head

Aerospace engineers create a greener planet through optimized aircrafts and also help make our civilization inter-planetary. I got to spend two amazing years working on equipment for the OSIRIS-REx mission. I couldn't have asked for a better experience.”

Maanyaa Kapur, aerospace alum and graduate student

Learning from Experience

Outside the classroom, students participate in a variety of activities to build community, apply technical knowledge to real-world problems, and hone teamwork, collaboration and leadership skills.

- Paid internships with longtime industry partners
- Formal networking opportunities with faculty, alumni and industry
- Senior design projects with experienced industry mentors
- Research opportunities and field experience
- Student chapters of professional organizations, among them the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Student competitions and clubs, such as the Arizona Autonomous Vehicle Club, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, and the Near Space Club

A Place for Everyone

Various engineering clubs – American Indian Science & Engineering Society; National Society of Black Engineers; Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Women in Science and Engineering, and Society of Women Engineers, for example – help ensure all students feel welcome and connected.

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