



# Graduate School Information Night

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Aerospace Engineering

October 27, 2020

**I** ILLINOIS

# Welcome!



Daniel  
Bodony



Staci  
McDannel

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MS and PhD



Jason  
Merret



Jenna  
Russell

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MEng



# Outline

- Why attend graduate school?
- AE Graduate Program overview
- Financial support
- Application process

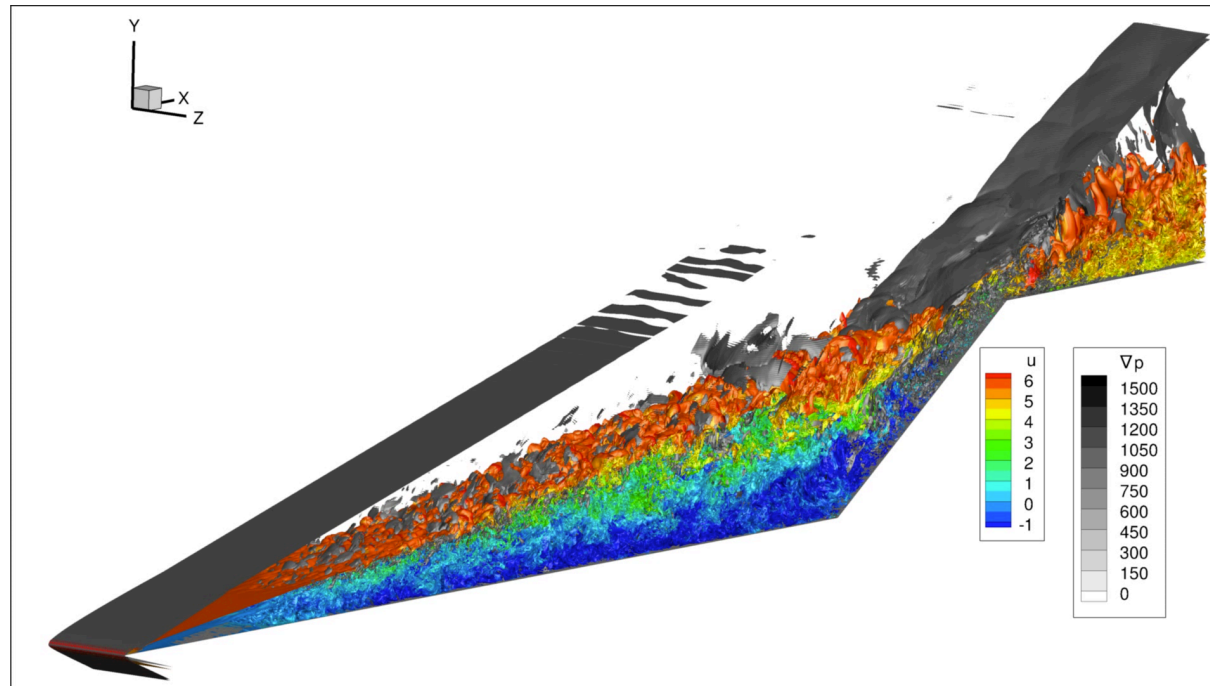


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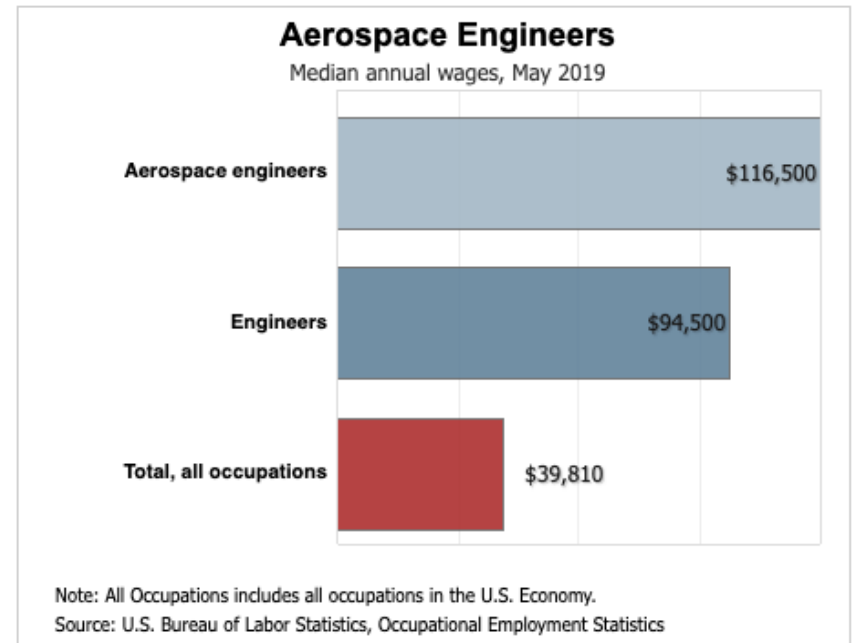


# Why Attend Graduate School?



# Why Attend Graduate School?

- More knowledge/specialization
- Higher salary for advanced degrees\*
  - BS starting salary - \$61K
  - MS starting salary - \$76K
  - PhD starting salary - \$100K
- More career paths
- Interest in research



\* Salary information from Spring 2018 NACE Salary Survey

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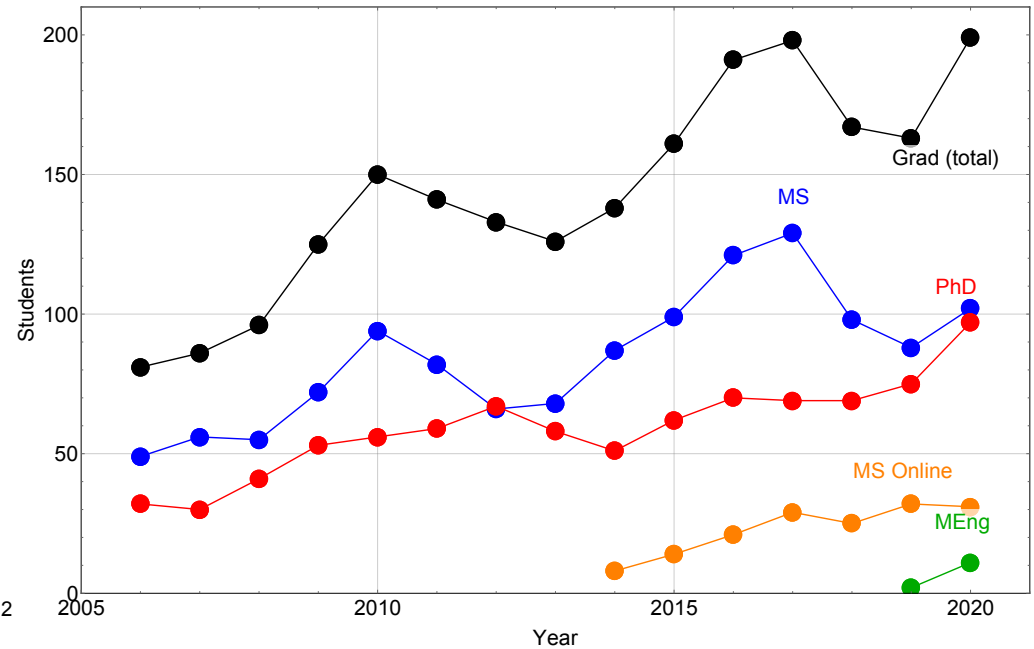
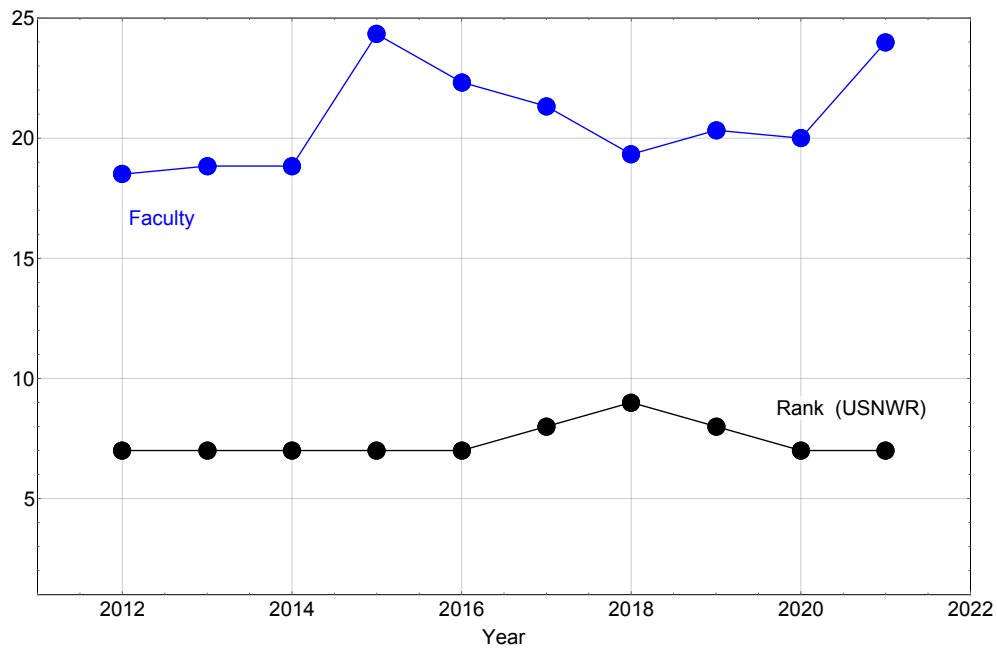
# AE Graduate Programs

- Master of Engineering (MEng)
  - Aerospace Systems
  - Started Spring 2020
- Masters of Science (MS)
  - Non-thesis (MSNT)
  - Thesis
- PhD (including direct) – now with 5-year funding guarantee





# AE @ Illinois By-the-Numbers



# Master of Science

- Targets students wanting detailed knowledge in AE
- MS (without thesis)
  - 32 hours of coursework
    - Grad courses 4 hrs each
    - Possible 4 hrs independent study
  - 2 semesters possible, 3 more reasonable
  - Self-supported (no TA/RA)
- MS (with thesis)
  - 24 hours of coursework
  - 8 hours of thesis credit
  - Typically 4 semesters + summer
  - RA/TA funding available
  - MS Thesis



# BS + MS Combined Program

- You receive both BS and MS degrees
- Overall GPA of 3.4 for BS
- MS Degree requirements are the same
- Apply January 1<sup>st</sup> of your junior year (after you complete fall semester junior AE core classes)
- Application process same as MS
- Can shave ~1 semester off BS + MS time



# Master of Engineering

- Targets students interested in *system level design and program management in aerospace engineering*
- Highly recommended by AE Recent Alumni
- Similar to MSNT, but with math  $\Leftrightarrow$  practicum
- 32 hours of coursework
  - AE 542 + AE 543 (Aerospace Systems Eng. I & II) Required
- 3 semesters



# Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)

- Targets students wanting to define the leading edge of knowledge
- 24 hours of coursework beyond the MS + 24 hrs thesis credit
- Typically 3-5 years beyond the MS
- RA support guaranteed + 1 semester TA required
- Qualifying Exam
- Preliminary Exam
- Thesis and Final Defense



# Direct PhD Program

- Allows students with  $\text{GPA} \geq 3.75$  to “skip” the MS and directly enter the PhD program
- Why?
  - 1 thesis vs. 2 theses
  - Shaves  $\sim 1$  year of BS  $\Rightarrow$  PhD process



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# Financial Support

- MSNT + MEng: self-supporting
- MS + PhD
  - Advisor pays you a stipend, your tuition, health insurance, and other fees
  - Stipend ~ \$2,500 / month for 50% appointment
- Fellowships: most attractive but very competitive
  - National: NSF GFRP, NASA NSTRF, DoD NDSEG & SMART
  - Campus: Illinois Distinguished
  - College: Carver, SURGE
  - Department: Stillwell, Beatty, GAANN





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# Application Process

- AE has automatic admission into the MEng / MS programs if
  - UIUC Overall GPA  $\geq 3.0$
  - UIUC Technical GPA  $\geq 3.25$
  - Start graduate school immediately following graduation
- Entry into PhD program requires
  - Personal statement
  - 3 reference letters
  - GRE (+ TOEFL if international student)



# Application Dates

- For Spring 2021 Entry
  - Now!
- For Fall 2021 Entry\*:
  - January 1, 2021, for MS & PhD
  - July 1, 2021, for MSNT, MEng
- The GRE has been waved for SP21 and FA21 due to pandemic



\*These are “soft” deadlines. We will accept your application any time but RA/TA funding gets more difficult the later you wait.

# For More Information

- MS and PhD Programs:

<https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate>

- MEng Program:

<https://aerospacesystemsmeng.engineering.illinois.edu/>



# Contact Information

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