We look forward to you joining the Illinois Grainger Engineering community and the Department of Aerospace Engineering. By choosing Grainger Engineering as your destination for an education in aerospace engineering, you’re choosing to join a rich history of excellence in what we like to call “extreme engineering.” This includes areas you’d expect, such as learning to design aircraft, rockets, and satellites. But on your undergraduate journey, you’ll also be exposed to subjects that can take you in many different career directions, such as unoccupied aerial vehicles, drone systems and control, or designing and testing new materials that can withstand the extreme conditions of space.

It’s an exciting time to be in the field of aerospace engineering! Government and private companies launch rockets nearly every week. They’re advancing batteries, developing alternative fuels, and making practical electric aircraft. Our graduates have gone on to design and test aircraft and spacecraft at every stage of the process. They are entrepreneurs in their own companies, and leaders in the air and space industry. They have become aerospace engineering professors. They work in mission control rooms. They’ve even walked in space.

At Illinois, your next few years will be life changing—full of opportunities and experiences that will shape you into a great engineer. You’ll meet people from around the world and from all walks of life. You will accomplish things that some only dream of. You will be equipped to create the change you want to see in the world. And we the faculty and staff of aerospace engineering will be with you every step of the way to provide support and guidance so that you can discover your passion and successfully join the network of 80,000+ Grainger Engineering alumni around the world.

Learn more about the boundless opportunities that await you in aerospace engineering at Illinois, and we hope that you will accept your offer to join us in August!

SINCERELY,

JONATHAN FREUND
Department Head and Donald Biggar Willett Professor in Engineering

ACCEPT YOUR OFFER
AND BECOME A GRAINGER ENGINEER!

To accept your offer and join AE at Illinois, login to your myIllini account and follow the instructions provided for admitted students.

go.grainger.illinois.edu/accept
As an aerospace engineering student at Illinois, you will study mechanics, materials, and physics, and work in all areas of aerospace systems. You will also gain first-hand experience in the design and performance of air and spacecrafts and their propulsion systems. The aerospace engineering curriculum provides a strong fundamental background in engineering, mathematics, and science, along with the ability to apply this fundamental knowledge to the analysis and design of future aircraft and spacecraft. You will work in all areas of aerospace systems and will be responsible for the design and performance of air and spacecraft and their propulsion systems.

In this major you take classes in mechanics, materials, and physics. The concepts of system design are introduced early in the curriculum and culminate in the yearlong senior capstone design experience (AE 442, AE 443), in which students work in teams to respond to a design challenge from industry, government, or a professional engineering society. Aerospace engineering students may learn about aerodynamics, design, and performance of air and spacecraft and their propulsion systems.

WHAT YOU’LL STUDY

In this major you take classes in mechanics, materials, and physics. The concepts of system design are introduced early in the curriculum and culminate in the yearlong senior capstone design experience (AE 442, AE 443), in which students work in teams to respond to a design challenge from industry, government, or a professional engineering society. Aerospace engineering students may learn about aerodynamics, design, and performance of air and spacecraft and their propulsion systems.

RESEARCH AREAS

Aeroacoustics
Aerelasticity
Aerospace Materials
Aerospace Structures
Aerospace Systems Design and Simulation
Applied Aerodynamics
Astrodynamics
Combustion and Propulsion
Computational Fluid Dynamics
Controls, Dynamical Systems and Estimation
Experimental Fluid Mechanics
Flow Control
Hypersonics
Laser and Optical Diagnostics
Nanosatellites
Space Systems
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

COMMON MINORS

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Mathematics
Physics
Atmospheric Sciences
Business

#9
ranked aerospace engineering program by U.S. News & World Report

69%
of students reported having an internship or co-op during their degree program

96%
of students reported securing their first choice destination upon graduation

$70,679
average starting salary
with a median signing bonus of $5,000

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The aerospace engineering curriculum at Illinois will prepare you for a career in industry or with government institutions, to engage in entrepreneurship, and/or pursue graduate degrees. You could be among the roughly 26% of our aerospace graduates who continue their education in graduate school, or join the almost 62% who take industry positions. Your career options as an aerospace graduate commonly include: aerospace, automotive work, defense, engines, government work, manufacturing, and security. You can expect an average salary of $70,697 with a median signing bonus of $4,971 (reported by graduates in 2019-20).

I strongly believe that my time as an AE student at Illinois prepared me for both rigorous graduate research and for working in industry. The breadth of the undergraduate program provided a solid foundation for the work I do today.

- Gina Miller
AE Graduate