AEROSPACE ENGINEERING, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus  
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
This major emphasizes the analysis, design, and operation of aircraft and spacecraft. Students learn the theories and practices in the fundamental subjects of aeronautics, astronautics, aerodynamics and fluid dynamics, aerospace materials and structures, dynamics and automatic control, aircraft stability and control and/or orbital and attitude dynamics and control, air-breathing and rocket propulsion, aircraft systems design and/or spacecraft systems design. All of these place significant weight on the development and use of teamwork and communications skills for effective problem-solving. Graduates in aerospace engineering find employment in the customary settings such as government laboratories, large and small aerospace firms, and in nontraditional positions that also require the use of systems-engineering approaches to problem-solving; they can also pursue graduate study in aerospace engineering and related fields.

What is Aerospace Engineering?
Aerospace engineering is the primary field of engineering concerned with the design, development, testing, and production of aircraft, spacecraft, and related systems and equipment. The field has traditionally focused on problems related to atmospheric and space flight, with two major and overlapping branches: aeronautical engineering and astronautical engineering. Aerospace engineers develop leading-edge technologies and integrate them into aerospace vehicle systems used for transportation, communications, exploration, and defense applications. This involves the design and manufacturing of aircraft, spacecraft, propulsion systems, satellites, and missiles, as well as the design and testing of aircraft and aerospace products, components, and subassemblies. Successful aerospace engineers possess in-depth skills in, and an understanding of, aerodynamics, materials and structures, propulsion, vehicle dynamics and control, and software.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You are interested in developing leading-edge technologies and integrating them into aerospace vehicle systems used for transportation, communications, exploration, and defense applications.
- You want to obtain a solid understanding of the foundations of aerospace systems: aerodynamics, structures, propulsion, dynamics and controls, and software, as well as unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), nano-materials, autonomous systems, and wind energy.
- You want to develop professional excellence, engineering thinking, and gain deep technical knowledge in the core disciplines and integrative systems of aerospace engineering through an innovative curriculum and world-class instruction.
- You want to make a significant global impact.

Entrance to Major
This program currently has administrative enrollment controls. Administrative Enrollment Controls are initiated when limitations of space, faculty, or other resources in a major prevent accommodating all students who request them. Students must follow the administrative enrollment controls that are in effect for the semester that they enter the university.

First-Year Students Entering Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, students must satisfy the following requirements:
- completed 40-59 credits at Penn State (actual credits taken at the University)
- completed with a grade of C or better: CHEM 110, MATH 140, MATH 141, MATH 250 (required for major) or MATH 251, PHYS 211, and PHYS 212
- earned a minimum of 3.20 cumulative GPA

Students Who Entered Prior to Summer 2018
Students who entered the University prior to the summer 2018 semester should view the administrative enrollment controls for the semester that they entered the university (http://advising.psu.edu/entrance-major-requirements) on the Academic Advising Portal.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering, a minimum of 131 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first two years of study are similar to those in other engineering majors and provide students with a basic education for the engineering profession. Students need to complete EMCH 212, CMPSC 201, MATH 220, MATH 230, and MATH 250 prior to the start of the junior year in order to meet graduation requirements in the following two years. Six of the nine technical-elective credits taken in the senior year must be aerospace engineering courses.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
• Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

27 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

This includes 27 credits of General Education courses: 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GS courses; 9 credits of GWS courses.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDSGN 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Engineering Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 201</td>
<td>Introduction to Thermal Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 220</td>
<td>Matrices</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 230</td>
<td>Calculus and Vector Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 214</td>
<td>General Physics: Wave Motion and Quantum Physics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 304</td>
<td>Dynamics and Control of Aerospace Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 305</td>
<td>Aerospace Technology Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 312</td>
<td>Aerodynamics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMCH 315</td>
<td>Mechanical Response of Engineering Materials</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMCH 316</td>
<td>Experimental Determination of Mechanical Response of Materials</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 410</td>
<td>Aerospace Propulsion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110</td>
<td>Chemical Principles I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 140</td>
<td>Calculus With Analytic Geometry I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 141</td>
<td>Calculus With Analytic Geometry II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 211</td>
<td>General Physics: Mechanics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMCH 212</td>
<td>Dynamics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 250</td>
<td>Ordinary Differential Equations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 212</td>
<td>General Physics: Electricity and Magnetism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 301</td>
<td>Aerospace Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 306</td>
<td>Aeronautics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 309</td>
<td>Astronautics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 311</td>
<td>Aerodynamics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 313</td>
<td>Aerospace Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses

Select 1 credit of First-Year Seminar                      | 1       |
Select from the following:
AERSP 413 Stability and Control of Aircraft               | 3       |
or AERSP 450 Orbit and Attitude Control of Spacecraft

CAS 100A Effective Speech or CAS 100B Effective Speech        | 3       |

Select from the following:
CMPSC 201 Programming for Engineers with C++ or CMPSC 202 | 3       |

ENGL 15 Honors Freshman Composition or ENGL 30 Rhetoric and Composition | 3 |

Select 3 credits of the following:

Select from the following:
ECON 102 Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 104 Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 14 Principles of Economics

Select 5 credits of the following:

EMCH 210 Statics and Strength of Materials
EMCH 211 Statics
EMCH 213 Strength of Materials
Select one of the following sequences:
AERSP 401A Spacecraft Design--Preliminary
or AERSP 401B and Spacecraft Design--Detailed
The undergraduate program will provide students with the
Program Outcomes (Student Outcomes)
The undergraduate program will provide students with the

a. ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science and engineering
to foundational subjects of aerospace engineering (aeronautics,
astronautics, aerodynamics and fluid dynamics, aerospace materials
and structures, dynamics and automatic control, stability and control
of aircraft and/or spacecraft, air-breathing and rocket propulsion,
and aircraft systems design and/or spacecraft systems design),
b. ability to design and conduct experiments, analyze and interpret data
in aerodynamics, propulsion, structures, or control systems,
c. ability to design a system, component or process, integrating
knowledge from relevant topics in astronautics and aeronautics, to
meet desired needs in aircraft systems and/or in spacecraft systems,
d. ability to function on multi-disciplinary teams,
e. ability to identify, formulate, and solve engineering problems,
f. understanding of professional and ethical responsibility,
g. ability to communicate effectively,
h. broad education necessary to understand the impact of engineering
solutions in a global, economic, environmental, and societal context,
i. recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in life-long
learning,
j. knowledge of contemporary issues,
k. ability to use the techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools
necessary for engineering practice, and
l. knowledge in all subjects in Category I or in Category II, and in some
subjects in the other category:
   a. (Category I: aerodynamics, aerospace materials, structures,
      propulsion, flight mechanics, and stability and control),
   b. (Category II: orbital mechanics, space environment, attitude
determination and control, telecommunications, space structures,
      and rocket propulsion).

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help
advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their
intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of
both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they
become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising
relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged
in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the
habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The
advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary
academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of
study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park
Robert Melton
Faculty Adviser
208 Hammond Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-1033
adviser@ engr.psu.edu

Suggested Academic Plan
Aerospace Engineering-ending at University Park Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible
ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes
in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any
time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit
(accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If
report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular
basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

If you are starting at a campus other than the one this plan is ending at,
please refer here:

http://advising. engr.psu.edu/degree-requirements/academic-plans-by-major.aspx

First Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
--- --- --- ---
CHEM 110 (GN) † 3 EDSDN 100 3
ECON 102 or 104 (GS) † 3 ENGL 15, 30, or ESL 15
MATH 140 or 140E (GQ) † 3 MATH 141 or 141E (GQ) †
PHYS 211 (GN, PHYSICS 211L & PHYSICS 211R) † 4 PHYS 212 (GN, PHYSICS 212L & PHYSICS 212R) †
AERSP 1 or 97 (or First Year Seminar) † 1 General Education Course † 3

1 Students who complete Basic ROTC may substitute 6 of the ROTC
credits for 3 credits of LE and 3 credits of GHW.

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Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 201</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 100A or 100B (GWS)††</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMCH 210</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>EMCH 212*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 220</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>EMCH 315</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 250#</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EMCH 316</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH 230</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ME 201</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
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Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 301*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP 304</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AERSP 309*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP 305†</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 311*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP 306*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 313*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP 312</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C (GWS)††</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHYS 214 (GN)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course†(GHW)†</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>General Education Course†(GHW)†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16.5</td>
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Fourth Year

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<thead>
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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 401A or 402A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP 401B or 402B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 410</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP 440, EE 210, or EE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP 413 or 450</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERSP Technical Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERSP Technical Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Limited Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course†(GHW)†</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>General Education Course†(GHW)†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 131

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

College Notes

AERSP 401A/AERSP 401B and AERSP 402A/AERSP 402B: Students may schedule either the spacecraft design sequence (AERSP 401A and AERSP 401B) or the aircraft design sequence (AERSP 402A and AERSP 402B). The appropriate control course (AERSP 413 or AERSP 450) should be scheduled accordingly.

AERSP Technical Elective: Select from department list. Students who complete the Cooperative Education Program may substitute 3 co-op credits for a Technical Elective and 3 co-op credits for a Limited Elective.

Health and Physical Activity Elective (GHW): Students who complete the ROTC Program may substitute 3 ROTC credits for the GHW requirement and 3 ROTC credits for a Limited Elective.

Limited Elective: Select from department list. Students who complete the Cooperative Education Program may substitute 3 co-op credits for the GHW requirement and 3 ROTC credits for a Limited Elective. Students who complete the Cooperative Education Program may substitute 3 co-op credits for a Technical Elective and 3 co-op credits for a Limited Elective.

These courses offered at University Park in fall semester only:

- AERSP 301
- AERSP 309
- AERSP 311
- AERSP 313
- AERSP 401A
- AERSP 402A
- AERSP 410
- AERSP 413
- AERSP 450

These courses offered at University Park in spring semester only:

- AERSP 304
- AERSP 305
- AERSP 306
- AERSP 312
- AERSP 401B
- AERSP 402B
- AERSP 440

Career Paths

Aerospace engineers work primarily in the aerospace industry, at systems and software suppliers, corporate labs, government labs, and universities. Their skill set is extremely broad and multidisciplinary, and the experience of aerospace engineers as systems architects and engineers allows them to make contributions in many diverse sectors. Our graduate programs provide outstanding research opportunities across a broad spectrum of topics, and encompass both computational and experimental research approaches. Students may embrace traditional fields like aerodynamics, propulsion, flight science, vehicle dynamics, aeroacoustics, and rotocraft...
engineering, as well as leading-edge research areas such as UAVs, commercial space, nanomanufacturing, and wind energy.

**Careers**

The industries that employed the most aerospace engineers are:

- Aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Engineering services.
- Federal government, excluding postal service.
- Research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences.
- Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments manufacturing.

MORE INFORMATION (http://career.engr.psu.edu)

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

The aerospace engineering department offers the following graduate degree options: *Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)* *Master of Science (M.S.)* *Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)* Students may also earn a graduate minor in computational science and/or a graduate certificate in wind energy.

MORE INFORMATION (http://www.aero.psu.edu/academics/graduate/prospective-students.aspx)

**Professional Resources**

- AHS International (https://vtol.org)
- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (https://www.aiaa.org)
- American Astronautical Society (http://astronautical.org)

**Accreditation**


MORE INFORMATION (http://www.abet.org)

**Contact**

**University Park**

DEPARTMENT OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

229 Hammond Building

814-865-2569

aerospace@engr.psu.edu

http://www.aero.psu.edu/