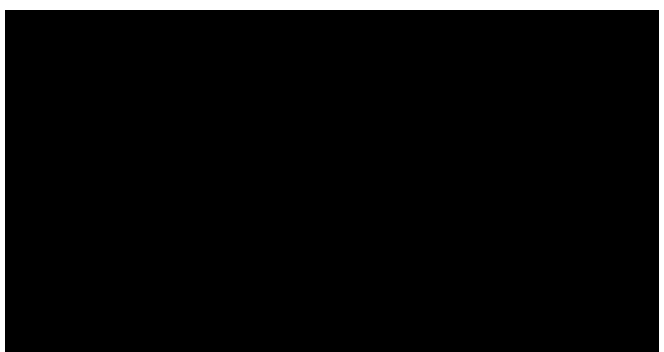
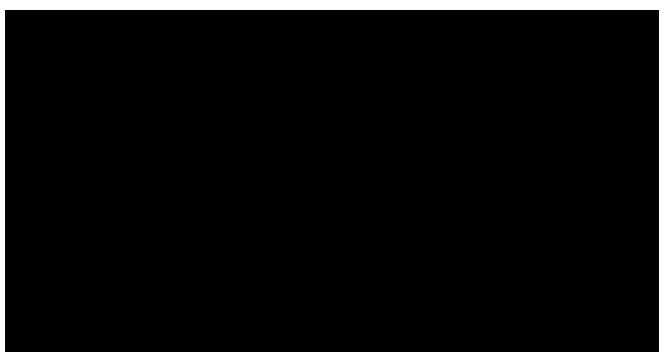
UT Mechanical Engineering, Make it Your Life Choice

Undergrad Rita Collier: Oh, the places you'll go! See how many doors a degree in Mechanical Engineering can open for you.



Undergrad Nhat Ho: Robotic Rehabilitation. Using robotics to improve lives.



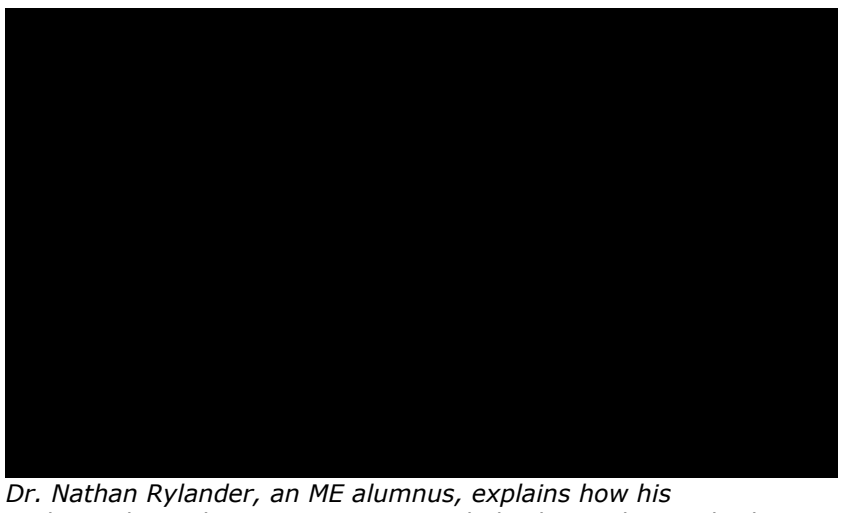
Undergrad Sangeetha Mylvaganam: Diversity, Creativity, Innovation. Mechanical engineers are a diverse group of people.

Mechanical engineers go everywhere and do everything

If you're looking for an exciting, prestigious and lucrative career path that will open possibilities in many different industries, mechanical engineering may be for you. Often described as the *"liberal arts of engineering,"* mechanical engineering is the broadest of all engineering disciplines, allowing for growth and development in a multitude of industries. Wherever inventions and creativity are needed, you will find a need for mechanical engineers. We have compiled several videos of current students and alumni to explain this career path in their own words. The diversity of our graduates is tremendous. There is no "one type of mechanical engineer."

What you can expect from an Engineering Career

Your career will be different from the next mechanical engineer, but all of you will be held in high regard by peers and given great responsibility, even in the early years of your career. You will be well compensated for your work and may earn twice or even three times more than your peers in other careers right out of college. If you like travel and adventure, your work could take you all over the globe.



Dr. Nathan Rylander, an ME alumnus, explains how his undergraduate degree in engineering helps him in his medical career.

BSME 2007 graduate Mallory Hatton talks about her experience in the oil business and describes the outgoing personalities and misconceptions about mechanical engineers.

Important Links

About the Department (rankings, etc.)
Working as a Mechanical Engineer
Student Involvement: Student Orgs
Frequently Asked Questions
Undergraduate Research Opportunities
Financial Assistance
Registrar
ME Videos
ME Newsletters
ME News story archives (08-present)
Parenting an ME Student

Salary Information

U.S. Engineering Salaries

***Karen Nyberg**, astronaut and former UT ME Ph.D. student, literally took international travel to new heights when she spent six months at the International Space Station in 2013. Read more.*

Currently, UT MEs with a bachelors' degree are averaging a **$72,160** starting salary, compared with the national average of **$59,180**.

Applying for Admission, Scholarships and Financial Aid

To apply to the program, you must apply online using the **ApplyTexas application** before December 1. There is no additional application through the department, nor any paper application. Consider applying for engineering merit-based scholarships by completing the Engineering Honors Program application, also by December 1. Scholarships, grants and loans are not awarded by the department, so please don't contact the department about financial aid.

Please review the links and information on our Financial Aid page. When you fill out the application, be sure to select Mechanical Engineering as your first choice major. If you start in another engineering program and decide to transfer to Mechanical, it can sometimes be done, but the number of transfer spots is quite limited. It is best to research your major selection carefully and stick with that selection.

High Rankings at the Best Price

U.S. News and World Report ranks universities, colleges and departments using different criteria. Other organizations also rank them, but this is the most important ranking system. Currently, our department is ranked **9th in the United States for the undergraduate program** and **10thfor its graduate program**. We are the only university in the top 10 within a 900-mile radius of Austin. Although you can certainly receive a good education at a lower-ranked institution, there are important advantages to attending a higher-ranked one. Some of the most prestigious companies only recruit at top institutions, thus our students' starting salaries are always higher than national averages (see numbers above). This likely means you'll earn more over your lifetime, as starting salaries correlate strongly to lifetime earnings. In addition, UT Austin's ME program is the **lowest priced top-10 ME program in the country.**

Opportunities and Life-Changing Adventures Await

Here at UT ME, we are serious about producing some of the finest engineers in the world, while also making your years on campus some of the best of your life.

Engineering and nursing students began working on a water sanitation project in seven indigenous Naso villages in Sieykin, Panama in 2009, the year this photo was taken. The engineers surveyed the seven sectors, measured current water storage tanks, assessed the health issues of the 400 villagers, tested all 13 water sources and studied the existing, deteriorating infrastructure. Over the course of the next five years, the project was completed, and a sanitary water system is now up and running in all seven villages.

- Cockrell School of Engineering Starting Salaries

Applying for Admission, Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Apply Texas Application
- Apply to the Engineering Honors Program (scholarships available)
- Undergraduate Scholarships in Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering Financial Aid Page

First-year Interest Groups (FIGs)

- Undergraduate Studies FIG information
- Cockrell School FIG information
- Women in Engineering Program (WEP)
- Plan II Honors Program
- New Student Orientation

Study Abroad

- International Office Study Abroad page
- Engineering Study Abroad page
- Vienna Maymester with Sr. Lecturer Billy Wood
- Sr. Lecturer Christy Moore, study abroad professor
- Prof. Janet Ellzey, study abrod professor and Vice-Provost

Student Organizations

- Student Organization List
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- Society for Automotive Engineers (SAE)
- Women in Mechanical Engineering (WME)
- Projects for Underserved Communities
- Engineers for a Sustainable World

Research, Curriculum and Tutoriing

- Undergraduate Research
- Hands-on Teaching (PROCEED program)
- Tutoring

High Rankings at the Best Price

- *U.S. News and World Report* Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering Department Rankings
- *U.S. News and World Report* Graduate Mechanical Engineering Department Rankings

Visting the Department and the Campus

- Contact Undergraduate Academic Advising
- Campus Visits for Future Longhorns
- Campus Tours
- Campus Housing Tours

First-year Interest Groups (FIGs)

First-year Interest Groups (FIGs) are an important part of campus life for freshmen Longhorns in all majors. A FIG is a group that meets weekly and allows students to be placed in two or three classes together. FIGs help students get to know others who will become study partners, classmates and friends, as well as introduce students to academic resources on campus. There are several co-ed ME FIGs in the Mechanical Engineering, several all-female FIGs hosted by the Women in Engineering Program (WEP), Plan II Honors Program FIGs, as well as university-wide FIGs that draw members from all over campus. Students can review the offerings online and choose their FIG during New Student Orientation in the summer.

Sr. Lecturer Billy Wood and 2014 Maymester students on a hike in the Black Forest in Germany.

Study Abroad

We encourage students to take advantage of one of our study abroad opportunities, if at all possible. For example, one of the most popular Maymesters (a one-month summer school class) is taught be Senior Lecturer Billy Wood. In this class, freshmen and sophomore students go to Europe (Vienna, Austria and Freiburg, Germany) to take a 3D design class for a month. Students are in class four days a week and travel every weekend. Senior Lecturer Christy Moore teaches a required Engineering Writing class in Spain. Professor Janet Ellzey teaches one in France. We also offer classes in Spain, England and Australia. The students report that the experience abroad changes their lives, while also preparing them for a future career that will likely involve a great deal of travel.

E-Week is a week in the spring semester of fun and games when the engineering student orgs compete against each other in silly games, scavenger hunts and the like. In this photo, ASME is grilling burgers and serving a tasty, outdoor lunch.

Student Organizations

Besides their FIG friends, most of our students are actively involved in one or more student organizations. One of the most popular student orgs is the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). ASME has many social functions, but it is also a serious professional society. There are student orgs for all different types of people, by race, gender and interest, such as the Society for Automotive Engineers (SAE), Women in Engineering Program (WEP) and Women in Mechanical Engineering (WME). In addition, many ME students enjoy the altruistic work of the Projects for Underserved Communities and Engineers for a Sustainable World. This work is often done outside the United States, enabling students to travel to Cameroon, Panama, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ghana and New Guinea. These projects often have to do with the design and implementation of sanitation and water systems, building of schools, production of building materials, and generation of electricity or alternative energy. These programs empower students with the understanding that their knowledge and skills can make a life and death difference in the lives of others.

Please see the list of student organizations. There should be at least one or two that are right for you.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Undergraduate researcher Brian Gawlik and Dr. Paulo Ferreira, his advisor, are pictured in a cleanroom where Gawlik is preparing gold in an evaporation chamber utilizing a heat source to evaporate gold and spray it onto a carbon substrate at the top of the chamber. Read more.

One of the best ways to find out what you can do with your degree is become involved in undergraduate research. Often, this exposure will lead a student into a graduate program or profession. We are pioneering our **first freshman research program (no link for this yet)** this year. Students will receive one credit hour and work in a research lab for about five hours per week.

Later, usually in the junior and senior years, students may be able to work for a research professor. Often undergrads who work in a research capacity will already have published in a technical journal or presented a paper or poster at a conference before graduating. The work experience and the strong bond with their advisor are extremely helpful when applying to graduate school or launching a career. This can also lead to lucrative internships, fellowships, grants and scholarships. We even have a few undergraduates who are already inventing new technology.

Curriculum, Hands-on Learning and Tutoring

Engineering can be difficult to teach well and to learn. We don't expect our students to be able to do every problem easily, so we use as much hands-on learning as we can to convey concepts and ideas. Students often work in carefully assigned teams and study in groups. The second floor of the building has a large open area filled with tables and chairs, a small portable space with whiteboard, a computer lab, computer desks, lockers and vending machines. It's a lovely, inviting area for students to congregate, eat and study.

Professors are encouraged to teach using physical and actual examples of concepts, and students take lab classes to supplement classroom instruction for many courses. Graduate students work as teaching assistants (TAs) who help students with the material. The university and some of the student orgs offer free tutoring that is even available in some of the dormitories.

Associate Professor Carolyn Seepersad teaching a Machine Elements class, instructs students to study a See-N-Say (toy) to understand how it actually works. Read more about Dr. Seepersad and view her students' projects.

Diversity

We are working hard to diversify our student population, and have put in place programs to help non-traditional engineering students not just fit in, but excel. The gender barrier is coming down, as women entering the field are doing as well as their male counterparts. We're also encouraging minority students and students from non-college educated families to join us. Please visit the Women in Engineering Program (WEP) and the Equal Opportunity in Engineering Program (EOE) sites for information on services and events. Both programs are there to help you transition successfully into the engineering program.

We understand there will be challenges for the non-traditional students, but we're working hard to attract and maintain these students through innovative programs and funding opportunities. Approximately 20% of UT's engineering students are minorities, and 21% of ME undergraduates are female.

Welcome and Come Visit!

We hope that when it is time for you to begin your university search, you'll take a good look at UT ME. When you register online, you also register for an official campus visit to get all the pertinent information on attending UT. Women should also contact the Women in Engineering Program for information on events for prospective female engineers. The university also hosts campus tours and residence hall tours, which you and your parents will want to take when you come visit. Please feel free to contact the undergraduate advisors if you have additional questions. Welcome Future Longhorns — we look forward to meeting you soon!

Rudy Torres, 2014 UT ME graduate, is pictured at NASA where he was awarded a prestigious summer internship. Rudy was born in the U.S., but moved to Mexico with his family as an infant. AT 12, he was sent back to Houston to live with an aunt and learn English. He worked extremely hard, won a number of scholarships, and is the only member of his family to attend or graduate from college. Read about his early life and his accomplishments at UT. (Scroll down, this is in alphabetical order). Upon graduation, Rudy landed his dream job in Austin doing battery research at Axium Battery LLC.

During one E-Week, ASME members met at the base of the UT Tower for a spontaneous rendition of 'The Eyes of Texas.' We hope you'll be singing our fight song soon, too! See video.

Back to previous page

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