AEROSPACE ENGINEERING, MS

for the degree of Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering (on campus & non-thesis online)

**department head:** Gregory Elliott (elliottg@illinois.edu)
**director of graduate studies:** Daniel J Bodony (bodony@illinois.edu)
**overview of admissions & requirements:** [https://aerospace.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate)
**overview of grad college admissions & requirements:** [https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply](https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply)
**department website:** [https://aerospace.illinois.edu/](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/)
**program website:** [https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/ms-degree-program](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/ms-degree-program)
**department faculty:** [https://aerospace.illinois.edu/directory/faculty](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/directory/faculty)
**college website:** [https://grainger.illinois.edu/](https://grainger.illinois.edu/)
**contact:** Staci McDannel (tank@illinois.edu)
**address:** 306 Talbot Laboratory, 104 S Wright St, Urbana, IL 61801
**phone:** (217) 333-2651
**email:** aerospace@illinois.edu

The Department of Aerospace Engineering offers both an MS with thesis ([https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/ms-degree-program/ms-degree-thesis/](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/ms-degree-program/ms-degree-thesis/)) and an MS non-thesis ([https://ae.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/ms-degree-program/ms-degree-non-thesis-campus/](https://ae.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/ms-degree-program/ms-degree-non-thesis-campus/)) program. Students in the MS with thesis program are required to have a research advisor and applicants are encouraged to contact department faculty ([https://aerospace.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/)) in their areas of interest to inquire about possible research and funding opportunities.

Opportunity exists for specializing in computational science and engineering via the Computational Science & Engineering ([http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)) optional graduate concentration.

**Admission Requirements**

The Department of Aerospace Engineering accepts applications for admission to the MS with thesis and MS non-thesis graduate programs per the following deadlines:

**Fall Admission**
For MS with thesis admission and full consideration for funding opportunities: January 1
For MS non-thesis admission: July 1

**Spring Admission**
For MS with thesis admission and full consideration for funding opportunities: October 8
For MS non-thesis admission: December 1

Typically, the prerequisite for graduate study is the equivalent of the BS in Aerospace Engineering ([https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/)); however, graduates of curricula leading to degrees in other fields of engineering, the physical sciences, or mathematics may also be admitted to advanced study. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 (A = 4.00) for the last two years of undergraduate study is required. However, having a GPA higher than the minimum is no guarantee of admission. Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) ([http://ets.org/](http://ets.org/)) general test are required of all applicants. There are no minimum GRE score requirements.

Applicants to the Aerospace Engineering graduate program are asked to complete a supplemental form that will capture additional information about their specific interests. Applicants receive an email after submitting the online application which contains the link to the supplemental form. Applicants may select up to three areas from the following list:

- • additive manufacturing
- • aerospace structures
- • combustion and propulsion
- • experimental fluid mechanics
- • information technology
- • robotics

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit the results of the TOEFL ([http://www.toefl.org/](http://www.toefl.org/)) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) ([http://www.ielts.org/](http://www.ielts.org/)) as evidence of meeting the English proficiency requirements for full admission status ([http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/](http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/)). Under certain circumstances applicants may be exempt ([https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/](https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c/)) from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement.

Applicants who are non-native speakers of English and who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships must provide evidence ([https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm](https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm)) of spoken English language proficiency. Specifically, they must score 24 or higher on the SPEAK portion of the TOEFL exam and 8 or higher on the speaking sub-section of the IELTS.

For full information on admission requirements and how to apply, see the department’s graduate programs Web site ([https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/)).

**Financial Aid**

Students in the MS non-thesis program are not eligible for funding from the department. Financial aid for graduate students in thesis graduate programs is available in the form of fellowships ([https://grad.illinois.edu/fellowships/about/](https://grad.illinois.edu/fellowships/about/)), as well as teaching and research...
assistantships (https://grad.illinois.edu/assistantships/). A block grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration supports a multidisciplinary research and training program. Qualified candidates are considered for financial support upon application. In addition, graduate students making satisfactory progress toward their degrees may also be considered for financial support.

All applicants, regardless of US citizenship, whose native language is not English and who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships must demonstrate spoken English language proficiency (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm) by achieving a minimum score of 24 on the speaking subsection of the TOEFL iBT or 8 on the speaking subsection of the IELTS. For students who are unable to take the TOEFL or IELTS, a minimum score of 4CP is required on the EPI test (http://cte.illinois.edu/testing/oral_eng/epi_overview.html), offered on campus. All new teaching assistants are required to participate in the Graduate Academy for College Teaching (https://citl.illinois.edu/citl-101/teaching-learning/grad-academy-for-college-teaching/) conducted prior to the start of the semester.

Graduate Teaching Experience

MS students are not required to hold a teaching assistantship.

Department Research

Research activities in the Department of Aerospace Engineering encompass a wide range of problem areas in aerospace engineering and related engineering disciplines as described on the department’s research area Web site (https://aerospace.illinois.edu/research/).

There are several nationally renowned interdisciplinary centers in The Grainger College of Engineering where Aerospace Engineering faculty members engage in research along many other campus faculty. A list of these, along with links to full descriptions, appears at the department’s interdisciplinary centers Web site (https://aerospace.illinois.edu/research/interdisciplinary-centers/). Among these are the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, Center for Exascale Simulation of Plasma-Coupled Combustion (XPACC), Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL), Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Center (ACRC), Information Trust Institute (ITI), Center for UAS Propulsion (CUP), and Center for Cryogenic High-Efficiency Electrical Technologies for Aircraft (CHEETA).

Members of the Aerospace Engineering Department have access to a wide range of excellent research facilities. These laboratories support a wide range of activity and are described at the department’s research facilities Web site (https://aerospace.illinois.edu/research/research-facilities/).

Other Graduate Programs in the Department of Aerospace Engineering

degrees:

Aerospace Engineering, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/aerospace-engineering-phd/)

optional concentrations:

- Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)

Aerospace Engineering, Direct PhD (https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/phd-program/phd-student-status-and-requirements/direct-phd/)

optional concentrations:

- Computational Science & Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/concentration/computational-science-engineering/)

Aerospace Systems Engineering (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/engineering-meng/aerospace-systems/)

available for:

- Engineering, MENG (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/engineering-meng/)

The Department of Aerospace Engineering (AE) offers graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Engineering degree with a concentration in Aerospace Systems Engineering. The AE graduate program provides students with a strong background in engineering and applied science while placing emphasis on aircraft and spaceflight engineering. Students may major in one of the following general areas: aerodynamics, astrodynamics, combustion and propulsion, control systems, dynamical systems, fluid mechanics, structural mechanics, materials, and space systems.

Opportunity also exists for specializing in energy and sustainability engineering via the

Energy and Sustainability Engineering (EaSE) Graduate Certificate Option (http://ease.illinois.edu/)

for the degree of Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering (on campus & non-thesis online)

The MS in Aerospace Engineering is also offered online. The degree requirements are the same as for the on-campus MS non-thesis program and the degree awarded to online students is the same degree awarded to resident students. Online students have five years to complete the program.

Online students should develop a course program plan in consultation with their advisor. Suggested program tracks (https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/suggested-program-tracks/) are provided for each of the three main technical divisions in the department:

1. Aerodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Combustion and Propulsion (AFMCP);
2. Astrodynamics, Controls and Dynamical Systems (ACDS); and

For additional details and requirements, refer to the department’s Website (http://aerospace.illinois.edu/) and the Graduate College Handbook (https://grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).
# Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AE 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (min-max applied toward the degree)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE 590</td>
<td>Seminar (registration of 0 hours every term while in residence)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aerospace Engineering breadth requirement (<a href="https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/">https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/</a>)</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One mathematics course from an approved list (<a href="https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/">https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/</a>)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective courses chosen in consultation with an advisor (subject to Other Requirements and Conditions below)</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Requirements and Conditions

### Requirement

**Other Requirements and Conditions may overlap**

- A minimum of 16 hours of AE course work at the 400-level and above. (May include up to 8 hours of AE 599.)
- A minimum of 12 500-level credit hours overall applied toward the degree, with 8 hours being AE courses. (May include up to 4 hours of AE 599.)
- No hours of AE 597 (or other independent study) may be applied in this option.

**Minimum GPA:**

- 3.0

- A departmental petition is required to change from the thesis to the non-thesis option.

### Description

- A minimum of 16 hours of AE course work at the 400-level and above.
- A minimum of 12 500-level credit hours overall applied toward the degree, with 8 hours being AE courses.
- A maximum of 4 hours of AE 597 (or other independent study) may be applied toward the elective course work requirement.

**Attendance at all Aerospace Engineering AE 590 seminars each semester while on campus.**

**Minimum GPA:**

- 3.0

- Generally, students holding a research assistantship will not be allowed in the non-thesis option.

A departmental petition is required to change from the thesis to the non-thesis option and vice-versa.

---

# Non-Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AE 590</td>
<td>Seminar (registration for 0 hours every term while in residence)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aerospace Engineering breadth requirement (<a href="https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/">https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/</a>)</td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One mathematics course from an approved list (<a href="https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/">https://aerospace.illinois.edu/academics/graduate/breadth-and-mathematics-requirements/</a>)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Website ([https://aerospace.illinois.edu/](https://aerospace.illinois.edu/)) and the Graduate College Handbook ([http://grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/](http://grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/)).