

Explore Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

In the real world not every problem is an answer in a textbook. Interesting problems haven't been solved yet so having the tools that they teach you here to be able to attack any problem is really what's key.

I picked mechanical engineering because it was really hands-on which is important to me. I felt like it was kind of the means to making science fiction a reality.

One of the greatest things about being a mechanical engineer is you get to make things all the way from coming up with an initial concept to all the physical challenges you have and building these things and making them functional. Then at the end you get to see the product.

Students in mechanical engineering are very good at the details and they can be very good at big picture thinking as well. The best students combine a little bit of both. I think our curriculum helps them do that.

People who study mechanical engineering get trained in four different areas. Fluids thermal, that's my area of course, dynamics and control, and solid mechanics and design. Beyond that it's possible to specialize in a number of different application areas or disciplinary areas.

Very few institutions in the nation have the breadth of instruction that we have and the opportunities for students to engage in these project activities and research activities. So when students want more than simply taking classes and doing homework, Cornell is a great choice.

I worked in industry before I worked on a project team. I can speak with absolute certainty that the work you're doing with a team is the closest that you get to real-life engineering. It's absolutely key to find out what kind of engineer you want to be. Until I was a junior I really didn't know what I wanted to do but I finally hit a class I really loved which is fluid mechanics because the professor was really lively and made the whole class come to life.

Class sizes are midsize so you get a chance to really meet the faculty. There's opportunities to do research with professors on really cutting edge stuff. We have students that have started small companies as a result of their research. Some have gone on to faculty positions and many more go on to work in industry and in government positions. These are positions that require thought leadership. Those are exciting jobs to have and they also pay pretty well but for a lot of them its not just about the money, I mean it really is about making a difference and having an impact in the world particularly in those areas that they are passionate about.

I've always known I wanted to do something with sustainable energy and just to be able to see as a mechanical engineer the difference I can make in wind energy was very powerful for me.

It's always really inspired me to not only work with rockets but with satellites and as a mechanical engineer I have the opportunity to work on so many different projects in the aerospace industry.

If you are considering a major in mechanical engineering definitely don't limit your horizons. It's very easy to learn from the amazing people that are around you.

If you're interested in tackling problems no one's ever tackled before, mechanical and aerospace is the place for you.