Engineering Mechanics

Administered by the Department of Aerospace Engineering

Undergraduate Study

The undergraduate courses in mechanics are intermediate between those in physics and mathematics and the professional and design courses of the several engineering curricula. In these courses the student is expected to acquire an understanding of the basic principles and analysis techniques pertaining to the static and dynamic behavior of rigid media, deformable solids, fluids, and gasses. Physical properties of engineering materials are studied in the classroom and are tested in the laboratory. General physical laws are given mathematical expression and are made suitable for use in the solution of specific problems in machine and structural design, and in the flow and measurement of fluids.

Graduate Study

The department offers graduate programs that lead to the degrees master of science, master of engineering, and doctor of philosophy with major in engineering mechanics, and minor work to students taking major work in other departments.

The master of science degree requires a thesis and has strong research emphasis. The master of science degree is recommended for students who anticipate entering a doctoral program later. The master of engineering degree does not require either research credits or a thesis. The program is intended to give students additional instruction at the graduate level to better qualify them for advanced professional engineering work. By careful selection of electives and perhaps additional courses during the senior undergraduate year, students should be able to qualify for the master of engineering degree with an additional year of full-time study after receiving their baccalaureate degree in one of the several engineering curricula.

The master of engineering degree does require a creative component which will be obtained by registering for E M 599 Creative Component. A written report and an oral presentation will be given to the student’s graduate committee.

At least 30 credits of acceptable graduate work are required for both the master of science and the master of engineering degrees. For specific course, research, and creative component requirements, see the departmental Graduate Student Handbook (http://www.aere.iastate.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/13/files/2011/09/Graduate-Handbook-Fall-2011.pdf).

The normal prerequisite to major graduate work is the completion of a curriculum substantially equivalent to that required of undergraduate students in engineering at this university. However, because of the diversity of interests in graduate work in engineering mechanics, it is possible for a student to qualify for graduate study even though undergraduate or prior graduate training has been in a discipline other than engineering—e.g., physics or mathematics.