Aerospace engineers design, develop and test aircraft, spacecraft and missiles, and supervise the manufacturing of these products.
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AT SLU

The Aerospace Engineering program is well respected with impressive alumni, top-notch faculty and extensive hands-on educational opportunities available to students during the undergraduate experience. Undergraduate students receive valuable research experience, which is a unique aspect in an engineering program. This leads to student publications and patents, as well as external funding from corporations that see the value in investing in Parks undergraduate research. Students have access to an engineering flight simulator, low-speed and supersonic wind tunnels and many other high-tech, well-equipped laboratories.

The program objectives are to prepare graduates to practice the principles of engineering in aerospace or allied organizations, prepare graduates to pursue further learning in aerospace engineering or in allied disciplines and prepare graduates to function as effective engineers with professional knowledge, skills and values.

INDUSTRY INTERACTION

Parks graduates will go on to be industry leaders and innovators. For example, Parks alumni have touched every NASA mission to date. To commemorate this achievement, a wall in McDonnell Douglas Hall features each NASA mission patch, which alumni sign when they visit campus. Our featured alum, Carrie Traven (pictured on next page) pioneers sustainability-focused undertakings at Boeing in St. Louis.

With an outstanding legacy, major companies seek Parks students. Boeing offers the BOLD Scholarship Program, which provides undergraduates with financial assistance and industry experience. Numerous other small businesses, multi-national corporations and government agencies employ Parks graduates, knowing they are technically and ethically prepared to perform at a higher level.

PROGRAM FEATURES

Aerospace Engineering at SLU is nationally recognized for its excellence. Contributing to this outstanding reputation are the student and alumni accomplishments as well as the many unique program features:

- Parks is one of two institutions in the U.S. to house an Engineering Flight simulator, used for design testing.
- Well-qualified students earn their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five years.
- A major aerospace engineering firm utilizes Parks’ state-of-the-art wind tunnel facilities for testing.
- Undergraduate students conduct research with faculty members and publish their research findings in academic journals.
- Students take advantage of mentorship opportunities, pairing with local industry leaders through the St. Louis Regional Business Council or networking with noteworthy alumni through the Parks Leadership Academy series.
- Students may customize their education with a minor in engineering mathematics, computer science, flight science or another area that fits their career goals.
- A low student-to-faculty ratio ensures undergraduates the opportunity for meaningful interaction with their professors.
- The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) allows students to study specific research topics of interest under the direction of a faculty member, while receiving a stipend.
- The practice of design skills is carefully integrated into all engineering courses and the design experience culminates in a sequence of two capstone design courses during the senior year.
- Aerospace Engineering majors can obtain a dual B.S. degree in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering by completing 32 additional credit hours.

Pictured below: Gene Kranz, former NASA Flight Director, famous for his work on Apollo 13, speaks to Parks Students
**FEATURED ALUM**

Carrie Traven has been an engineer with McDonnell Douglas and Boeing for over 12 years. She has worked in many realms, including Phantom Works, Future Combat Systems (FCS) with the Army, and the Chairman’s Innovation Initiative—a corporate program for idea incubation.

Carrie graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Parks. She served as the first female Student Government Association President.

Carrie is currently the F/A-18 Program Lean+ and Green Hornet Focal. Previously, she served as the Deputy Chief Engineer on the F/A-18 E/F program. The F/A-18 Hornet is the jet of the Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy’s flight demonstration squadron and the world’s first military aerial demonstration team.

**WHY I CAME TO PARKS**

“I have always been an engineer in the mind and heart, and SLU is helping to make my dream a reality. Everyone knows what a great reputation Parks has for its Aerospace program and I wanted to come for the academic quality. To me, that means small class sizes, the opportunity for one-on-one faculty interaction and the chance to get an amazing technical education, while becoming a more well-rounded person. My professors teach me to incorporate ethics into everything I do, which is what the Jesuit mission at SLU is all about.

I was also drawn to Parks, hoping to follow in the footsteps of our impressive alumni! When Gene Kranz came to talk with us about the foundation Parks provided him, I was in awe. I hope to return one day and share my success. I am the President of the Association of Parks College Students, the President of the Formula SAE Race Team, the Student Representative on the Alumni Board and the Vice President of Student Affairs for the Society of Women Engineers. These positions prepare me for my career and allow me to impact my school.

Choosing a college is a huge decision, impacting the rest of your life and I know I made the right choice. I am on a path in life that will allow me to set goals beyond the sky and into the stars.”

-Jessica Rozycki, aerospace engineering major

**FEATURED STUDENT GROUP**

The Society for American Engineers, is a global association of more than 128,000 engineers and related technical experts in the aerospace, automotive and commercial-vehicle industries. The Parks SAE Aero Design Team has been very successful in competitions across the country competing against teams from around the globe.

The competition provides undergraduate and graduate engineering students with a real-life engineering exercise. Students perform trade studies to arrive at a design solution that optimally meets the mission requirements and configuration limitations.
ABOUT PARKS COLLEGE

Several global challenges have emerged as opportunities for engineering and aviation students of Saint Louis University to make a difference, to apply their education in a context that is technically brilliant, socially responsible and uniquely enterprising, and to ultimately make the world a better, more inclusive place.

As technology alters every facet of our lives, aviation scientists, computer specialists and engineers are more in demand than ever. SLU’s Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology has a worldwide reputation for its aviation and engineering programs. Our alumni have touched every NASA mission, developed patented technology for wind energy and won national and international awards.

“I invite you to make an appointment for a personal tour. Our faculty, staff and students will be delighted to show you around and answer your questions.”

Theodosios Alexander, Sc.D. Dean

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