The Penn State Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME) embraces a culture of discovery, inclusion, and excellence. Our faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students are innovating today what will impact tomorrow's solutions to meeting our energy needs, homeland security, biomedical devices, and transportation systems.

Our faculty are recognized as leaders in education and actively conduct research to generate new knowledge that strengthens undergraduate and graduate education at Penn State. Our strength in developing and delivering a modern program is directly related to their accomplishments and dedication to the profession.

Our Mission: Create a diverse and inclusive community that empowers excellence in research, education, and service.

2019-20 Research Expenditures

Research expenditures include subcontracts and internally funded projects.

Degrees Awarded [2018-19]

Typically, the department has around 450 students each year, including those in pre-major coursework. Approximate degrees awarded annually:

- 51 M.S.
- 145 Ph.D.
- 658 Undergraduate
- 854 ME DEGREES AWARDED

Enrollment

- 661 Undergraduate (Jr./Sr.)
- 291 Master's and Ph.D.
- 60 Faculty
Notable Labs, Facilities, and Institutes

- Battery and Energy Storage Technology Center
- Biological & Robotic Intelligent Fluid Locomotion Lab
- Center for Biodevices
- Center for Gas Turbine Research, Education, and Outreach
- Convergence Center for Living Multifunctional Material Systems
- Engineering Design and Optimization Group
- Electroactive Materials Characterization Lab
- Experimental and Computational Convection Lab
- Intelligent Systems and Vehicles Laboratory
- Laboratory of Sound and Vibration Research
- Materials Research Institute
- Mechatronics Research Laboratory
- Penn State Center for Combustion, Power, and Propulsion
- Penn State Institute for Computational and Data Sciences
- Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment
- Precision Medical Instrument Laboratory
- Steady Thermal Aero Research Turbine Lab
- Wong Laboratory for Nature Inspired Engineering

Research Areas

- Biomedical Devices
- Energy Systems and Storage
- Engineering Education
- Combustion and Turbomachinery
- Design and Advanced Manufacturing
- Nature Inspired Engineering
- SMART Materials
- Controls and Optimization

Student Organizations

- 3-D Printing Club
- ASME Student Chapter
- Engineering Ambassadors
- Engineering Undergraduate Council
- Engineers Without Borders
- Graduate Student Association
- Human Powered Vehicle Team
- It’s All About M.E.
- Lunar Lion
- Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Council
- National Society of Black Engineers
- Penn State Advanced Vehicle Team
- Penn State Formula SAE – Penn State Racing
- Penn State Robotics Club
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
- Unmanned Aerial Systems Club

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) Resident
- Master of Science (M.S.) Online
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Additive Manufacturing and Design, Resident
- Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Additive Manufacturing and Design, Online

Naren Gursahaney Family E-Knowledge Commons

Located on the first floor of the Reber Building, the home of mechanical engineering, the Naren Gursahaney Family E-Knowledge Commons is a student-centered space designed for peer-to-peer learning.

Equipped with individual and group study areas to foster collaboration as well as private meeting rooms outfitted with state-of-the-art computer and video conferencing systems, the E-Knowledge Commons provides students with the advanced tools they need to learn and succeed in today’s competitive global environment.

Contact Information

Department of Mechanical Engineering
137 Reber Building
Penn State
University Park, PA 16802
Karen A. Thole,
Department Head
kthole@psu.edu