

Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering

Daytona Beach Program Requirements

Graduate Mathematics Course	3
Area of Concentration	15
Dissertation	24
Total Credits	42

Program Details

The objective of the Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering is to provide an opportunity for highly motivated students with a strong science and engineering background to participate in a program of research and coursework in the areas of Aerodynamics and Propulsion, Dynamics and Control, and Structures and Materials while earning their doctoral degree.

The degree is conferred primarily in recognition of original research and completion of a dissertation resulting in journal publications. In addition, a minimum number of advanced courses that help students build a solid foundation for Ph.D. level research is required.

Although the program is designed for delivery through a traditional residential format, provisions are in place to allow highly qualified working individuals in industry or government to participate when appropriate arrangements can be made.

Areas of Concentration

There are three areas of concentration in the Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering:

Aerodynamics and Propulsion

Aerodynamics and Propulsion focuses on aerodynamics, viscous flows, hypersonic flows, and jet engine and rocket aero-thermodynamics. Courses are offered in these subjects, as well as in specialized topics such as combustion, heat transfer, aeroacoustics, and rotorcraft aerodynamics. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) is offered at an introductory level. Advanced level topics include CFD as well as turbine engine systems. Research topics within the Aero-Propulsion group include: Aeroacoustic modeling and noise mitigation; micro air vehicles and synthetic jets for mitigating icing and flow separation; heat transfer in turbine blades; rocket propulsion simulation; Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles; hypersonic vehicles and hypersonic combustion; pulsed detonation engines; extending stall margins in fans and compressors; rotorcraft aerodynamics; turbulent boundary layer/shear layers and their control; two-phase boundary layers; fluid structure interaction; numerical simulation of plasma for flow control and plasma assisted combustion; and LES of compressible turbulence and high speed combustion.

Dynamics and Control

Dynamics and Control focuses on the modeling of complex dynamical systems and the design, implementation and testing of guidance, navigation and active feedback control of these systems to meet rigorous requirements and high levels of performance. Particular research topics include autonomous unpiloted air and ground vehicles; evolving aerospace structures and formations; control of flexible aerospace structures; networked systems; aircraft guidance control and handling qualities; spacecraft guidance, navigation and control, with emphasis on rendezvous and proximity operations; aviation safety; artificial intelligence; wind energy systems; and control of quantum information systems.

Structures and Materials

Structures and Materials focuses on the study of aeroelasticity, vibration, fracture mechanics, thermoelasticity, composite materials, nanomaterials, smart materials, structural health monitoring, reliability analysis, computational structural mechanics, and design optimization. Particular research topics include aircraft structural design; aeroelastic tailoring;

design for additive manufacturing; optimization of composite structures; smart actuators and systems; guided-wave structural health monitoring; static and impact performance of lightweight materials; use of carbon nanotubes and graphene for strengthening and repair of composites; and molecular dynamic simulation.

Advantages

The Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering program targets domestic and international students, as well as working professionals with a Master's degree in aerospace engineering (or closely related engineering disciplines), who have exemplary track records of academic achievement in their coursework and demonstrated keen interest and ability for engaging in research and independent inquiry.

Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering will be conferred primarily in recognition of creative accomplishment and the ability to investigate scientific or engineering problems independently. The doctoral program also requires completion of advanced coursework that helps students build a solid foundation for Ph.D.-level research.

A student in the Ph.D. program is expected to:

- complete an approved plan of study during the first semester as a Ph.D. student
- pass the qualifying examinations to achieve advancement to candidacy
- pass the preliminary examination (present a dissertation proposal acceptable to the dissertation committee)
- complete a program of significant original research
- prepare and defend a dissertation concerning the research work
- complete the credit hours requirement listed below

Candidates will have an Aerospace Engineering faculty member assigned as their research advisor and chair of their dissertation committee. The candidate and advisor will work collaboratively to define the research topic, to determine the courses of study and to select appropriate members of the dissertation committee. Working under the auspices and direction of the advisor, the candidate will be responsible for developing a research plan and the dissertation proposal.

While the typical time for completing the Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering will be three (3) years for students with a Master's degree, it will be the policy of the College of Engineering that the total duration of the doctoral study should not exceed five (5) years beyond the Master's degree. Exceptions will be allowed when justified.

Credit Hours Requirement

For students with a Master's degree, the curriculum requires a minimum of 42 credit hours, including a minimum of 18 credit hours of coursework (including one advanced math course) and a minimum of 24 credit hours of dissertation research.

For students with a BS degree, the student needs to complete the requirements for a Master's degree first in addition to the 42 credit hours mentioned above.

With Advisor and Program Coordinator approval, students may complete a maximum of six hours of non-AE courses (DSCI, ENGP, other Engineering, MATH). Other level courses (i.e., 500, 700) may be considered if the student has completed two 600-level courses in their MS degree at ERAU.

Qualifying Examinations

A Ph.D. student must complete the qualifying requirement or take the qualifying examination in their area of concentration (i.e., Aerodynamics and Propulsion, Structures and Materials, or Dynamics and Control) within two years of their initial enrollment. The qualifying requirement is as follows: Students who earn an A in one core course within their area of concentration will not have to take the qualifying exam for that course. Students who earn an A in two of the core courses in the relevant area of

concentration meet the qualifying requirement and do not have to take the qualifying examination for that area.

The qualifying examinations are given once a year in early May. A student must pass the qualifying examination or satisfy the qualifying requirement prior to presenting a dissertation proposal.

- See Ph.D. AE Qualifying Examination Procedure (<https://catalog.erau.edu/programs/graduate/phd/aerospace-engineering/qualifying-exams/>) for details.

Preliminary Examinations

The purpose of the preliminary examination is to evaluate students' readiness for conducting their proposed research, assess their ability to use their knowledge to carry out independent and creative research and confirm their potential for successful completion of the Ph.D. dissertation. A Ph.D. student must take the preliminary examination within one year after completing the qualifying examinations.

The preliminary examination consists of a written research proposal and an oral presentation, which is made to the examining committee. The preliminary examination is to evaluate the student's readiness for completing the proposed research.

Dissertation Defense

The dissertation defense is the candidate's presentation of the work accomplished since the passing of the preliminary examination, and has been deemed sufficient and complete by the candidate's advisor. The defense is administered by the student's dissertation committee, in accordance with the Department of Aerospace Engineering, College of Engineering and University guidelines. The purpose of the examination is to evaluate the student's research efforts and written dissertation, to determine if the candidate is qualified to receive a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering. The major areas of emphasis of this examination are the quality and originality of the candidate's research, and his/her knowledge and understanding of the general areas of study related thereto.

Advisor and Dissertation Committee

Students must have an advisor from the faculty of the Aerospace Engineering department when he/she is admitted to the doctoral program in aerospace engineering.

A student must work with his/her major advisor to form a plan of study, a proposed calendar of events and a dissertation committee. The dissertation committee is composed of four faculty members of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Daytona Beach Campus, including at least three faculty members from the Aerospace Engineering Department. The fourth member should be a faculty from outside the Aerospace Engineering Department, i.e. faculty in another Engineering Department, or Physics, Mathematics, etc. In the event that a student is involved in collaborative research with an outside institution and/or company, one or more qualified members from these entities may serve on the dissertation committee, in addition to the four faculty members from the Daytona Beach Campus. The student's advisor serves as the chair of the dissertation committee. The dissertation committee must be formed within two semesters of the student's admission to the Ph.D. program.

Annual Progress Review

The dissertation committee will review the progress of the Ph.D. student/candidate once a year. The purpose of the review is to ensure that students continue to make satisfactory progress toward their degree objective. All major recommendations from this annual review will be forwarded to the student, with an assessment of achievements and of areas where improvements are expected.

Graduate Mathematics Course

Aerodynamics/Propulsion Concentration and Structures/Materials Concentration	
MATH 502	Boundary Value Problems
ENGP 501	Numerical Methods for Engineers and Scientists

Dynamics/Controls Concentration

MATH 532	Numerical Linear Algebra for Engineers
MATH 502	Boundary Value Problems
MATH 510	Fundamentals of Optimization

Area of Concentration

Aerodynamics and Propulsion

Choose Two of the Following:		6
AERO 504	Advanced Compressible Flow	
AERO 521	Viscous Flow	
AERO 528	Advanced Incompressible Aerodynamics	
Choose Three of the Following:		9
AERO 507	Design, Build and Test	
AERO 508	Intermediate Heat Transfer	
AERO 512	Combustion I	
AERO 516	Computational Aeronautical Fluid Dynamics	
AERO 524	Rocket Engine Propulsion Systems	
AERO 536	Rotorcraft Aerodynamics	
AERO 550	Thermodynamics: Classic and Modern Perspectives	
AERO 554	Applied Engineering Analysis	
AERO 610	Advanced Computational Fluid Dynamics	
AERO 625	Hypersonic Aerospace Propulsive Flows	
AERO 631	Aeroacoustics	
AERO 635	Flow Stability and Control	
AERO 640	Turbine Engine Propulsion Systems	
AERO 652	Turbulent Flows	
Total Credits		15

Dynamics and Control

Choose Two of the Following:		6
AERO 523	Linear Systems	
AERO 527	Modern Control Systems	
AERO 531	Orbital Mechanics	
AERO 544	Analytical Dynamics	
Choose Three of the Following:		9
ENGP 505	Spacecraft Dynamics and Control	
AERO 506	Airplane Dynamic Stability	
AERO 526	Engineering Optimization	
AERO 552	Unconventional Aircraft Design	
AERO 553	Hybrid and Urban Air Mobility	
AERO 554	Applied Engineering Analysis	
AERO 623	Navigation, Guidance and Control	
AERO 626	Advanced Topics in Discrete Control Theory	
AERO 627	Adaptive Control	
AERO 629	Robust Control Systems	
AERO 633	Optimal Control	
AERO 646	Nonlinear Systems	
AERO 654	Geometric Mechanics and Control of Rigid Body Motions	
AERO 678	Estimation of Dynamic Systems	
Total Credits		15

Structures and Materials

Choose Two of the Following:		6
AERO 502	Strength and Fatigue of Materials	
AERO 510	Aircraft Structural Dynamics	
AERO 522	Analysis of Aircraft Composite Materials	

Choose Three of the Following:	9
AERO 511 Engineering Materials Selection	
AERO 515 Introduction to the Finite Element Method	
AERO 520 Perturbation Methods in Engineering	
AERO 525 Structural Design Optimization	
AERO 532 Engineering Materials and Failure Analysis	
AERO 534 Smart Materials in Engineering	
AERO 538 Theory of Elasticity	
AERO 540 Structural Health Monitoring	
AERO 542 Mechanics of Structures: Variational and Computational Methods	
AERO 554 Applied Engineering Analysis	
AERO 606 Finite Element Aerospace Applications	
AERO 612 Analysis of Aircraft Plate and Shell Structures	
AERO 616 Advanced Aircraft Structural Dynamics	
AERO 618 Aeroelasticity	
AERO 648 Thermal Stresses in Aerospace Engineering	
Total Credits	15

Dissertation

Dissertation	24
AERO 800 Dissertation	
Total Credits	24

Suggested Plans of Study

Aerodynamics and Propulsion

Year One

Requirements	Credits
Area of Concentration Course	3
Area of Concentration Course	3
MATH Elective	3
Semester Hours	9

Requirements	Credits
Area of Concentration Course	3
600-Level Elective	3
Semester Hours	6

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Two

Requirements	Credits
600-Level Elective	3
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	6
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Three

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	6
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 9

Year Four

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 3

Dynamics and Control

Year One

Requirements	Credits
Area of Concentration Course	3
Area of Concentration Course	3
MATH Elective	3
Semester Hours	9

Requirements	Credits
Area of Concentration Course	3
600-Level Elective	3
Semester Hours	6

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Two

Requirements	Credits
600-Level Elective	3
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	6
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Three

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	6
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 9

Year Four

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 3

Structures and Materials

Year One

Requirements	Credits
Area of Concentration Course	3
Area of Concentration Course	3
MATH Elective	3
Semester Hours	9

Requirements	Credits
Area of Concentration Course	3
600-Level Elective	3
Semester Hours	6

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Two

Requirements	Credits
600-Level Elective	3
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	6
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Three

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	6
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 9

Year Four

Requirements	Credits
AERO 800 - Dissertation	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 3