Mississippi State University, founded in 1878, is a land-grant and sea-grant institution, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive institution, and the largest university in Mississippi. The university adjoins the city of Starkville, with a population of about 22,000. MSU enrolls approximately 20,000 students, 20 percent of whom are graduate students; has about 1,000 faculty members and approximately 4,000 total full-time employees; has a total operating budget of more than $500 million; and has annual research expenditures of more than $160 million.

The university offers over 180 bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees in over 90 academic programs through colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Architecture, Business and Industry, Education, Engineering, Forest Resources, and Veterinary Medicine. The academic calendar is based on fall and spring semesters and a 10-week summer term.

MSU is a member of the Southeastern Conference for intercollegiate athletics, offering six intercollegiate sports for men and eight for women. Approximately 25 percent of students live on campus, and a free shuttle bus system carries about 3,000 riders daily over four campus routes. The nearly 300 campus student organizations include about 30 social fraternities and sororities, Army and Air Force ROTC, and a variety of intramural and club sports.

For more information on the Mississippi State University Mechanical Engineering Program, contact:

Academic Advising
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone: 662-325-0618
ugradacademics@me.msstate.edu
www.me.msstate.edu
FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

Mississippi State University has a three-tier system of scholarships: university, college (of engineering), and departmental (mechanical). For entering freshmen and new students, your completion of the on-line application for admissions and the scholarship resume is all that is necessary to be considered for all available and applicable scholarships.

PROSPECTIVE & ENTERING FRESHMEN STUDENTS

For university information on admissions and scholarships, contact: Office of Admissions and Scholarships
Box 6334, Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone: (662) 325-2224,
www.admissions.msstate.edu/scholarships/

Note: When a student indicates engineering as their major during the application and scholarship process, they will also be required to provide an essay. Information can be found at www.engr.msstate.edu/academics/financialaid/essay/

For university information on financial aid, contact:
Department of Student Financial Aid
Garner Hall P.O. Box 6035
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone: (662) 325-2450,
financialaid@saffairs.msstate.edu
www.sfa.msstate.edu/aboutus/

Mechanical engineering students have the opportunity to obtain practical experience while getting paid in the Cooperative Education Program. The co-op program allows students to work alternate semesters in an engineering-related position with companies throughout the United States. Students complete the co-op program before their senior year so they can concentrate on the intensive sequence of design courses during the last two semesters. Employing industries include aerospace, automotive, oil, power, manufacturing, and U.S. government agencies. The average monthly salary for a mechanical engineering co-op student is $3260. More information on the co-op program can be found at www.coop.msstate.edu/

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Mechanical engineering students have the opportunity to participate in engineering professional societies. Student sections of these societies normally meet twice a month and host individual speakers, sponsor field trips to industries, and plan social functions. The following professional organizations have student sections in mechanical engineering at Mississippi State University:

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Society of Automotive Engineers
- American Society of Heating, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Engineers
- Pi Tau Sigma (Mechanical Engineering Honorary Society)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mechanical engineering is the application of science and mathematics to design, develop, build and operate mechanical and energy systems. Examples of these systems include mechanical devices ranging from simple linkages and gears to complex automated robots and energy systems ranging from water pumps to high-performance jet engines. Since the range of applications is so broad, virtually all industries employ mechanical engineers in various capacities. Versatility is the hallmark of mechanical engineering.

In addition to their strong foundation in the sciences, mechanical engineers must develop speaking and writing skills. Mechanical engineers spend much of their time thinking about how to design systems. The design process is complex, but it begins and ends with a mechanical engineer communicating with people to determine needs, set priorities, explain functions, and sell ideas.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AT MSU

The mechanical engineering program at Mississippi State University is challenging and demanding. The average ACT composite score of first-time entering engineering freshmen is 27.3.

Students who are interested in mechanical engineering are encouraged to prepare themselves in high school by taking courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and computer science.

FACULTY

The heart of any engineering program is a qualified and experienced faculty. Besides excellent academic credentials, members of the Mississippi State University mechanical engineering faculty have a wealth of experience at the university level and in industry. Faculty members are dedicated to providing students with a program that will prepare them for jobs or graduate school. Mechanical engineering faculty often work with students on research projects outside of traditional class work.