Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science

The Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science offers a PhD in either Mechanical Engineering or Aerospace Engineering. The department's research strengths include biomechanics, materials, energy, fluid mechanics and rotary-wing aerodynamics. The doctoral student, with their adviser, designs the program of study and the research project. The dissertation is defended at the end of the research effort. A typical time to PhD after an undergraduate engineering degree is four to five years, but the length of the program may vary depending on the individual and the area of study.

Contact: Prof. Jessica Wagenseil
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Faculty

Chair
Philip V. Bayly (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Philip-Bayly.html)
The Lee Hunter Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering
PhD, Duke University
Nonlinear dynamics, vibrations, biomechanics

Associate Chairs
Katharine M. Flores (Materials Science) (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Katharine-Flores.html)
PhD, Stanford University
Mechanical behavior of structural materials

David A. Peters (Mechanical Engineering) (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/David-Peters.html)
McDonnell Douglas Professor of Engineering
PhD, Stanford University
Aeroelasticity, vibrations, helicopter dynamics and aerodynamics

Endowed Professors
Ramesh K. Agarwal (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Ramesh-Agarwal.html)
William Palm Professor of Engineering
PhD, Stanford University
Computational fluid dynamics and computational physics

Guy M. Genin (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Guy-Genin.html)
Harold & Kathleen Faught Professor of Mechanical Engineering
PhD, Harvard University
Solid mechanics, fracture mechanics

Mark J. Jakiela (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Mark-Jakiela.html)
Lee Hunter Professor of Mechanical Design
PhD, University of Michigan
Mechanical design, design for manufacturing, optimization, evolutionary computation

Christopher I. Byrnes Professor of Engineering
PhD, University of Toronto
Materials science, physical metallurgy

Srikanth Singamaneni (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Srikanth-Singamaneni.html)
Lilyan and E. Lisle Hughes Professor of Mechanical Engineering
PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology
Microstructures of cross-linked polymers

Professor
Jianjun Guan (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Jianjun-Guan.html)
PhD, Zhejiang University
Biomimetic biomaterials synthesis and scaffold fabrication

Associate Professors
Spencer P. Lake (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Spencer-Lake.html)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Soft tissue biomechanics

Jessica E. Wagenseil (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Jessica-Wagenseil.html)
DSc, Washington University
Arterial biomechanics

Assistant Professors
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Computational fluid dynamics and computational physics

Matthew R. Bersi (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Matthew-Bersi.html)
PhD, Yale University
Biomedical engineering
J. Mark Meacham (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Mark-Meacham.html)
PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology
Micro-/nanotechnologies for thermal systems and the life sciences

PhD, Ohio State University
Computational materials science

Amit Pathak (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Amit-Pathak.html)
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara
Cellular biomechanics

Patricia B. Weisensee (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Patricia-Weisensee.html)
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Thermal fluids

Professors of the Practice

Harold J. Brandon (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Harold-Brandon.html)
DSc, Washington University
Energetics, thermal systems

Swami Karunamoorthy (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Swami-Karunamoorthy.html)
DSc, Washington University
Helicopter dynamics, engineering education

Teaching Professor

Emily J. Boyd (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Emily-Boyd.html)
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
Thermofluids

Joint Faculty

Stifel & Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental Engineering Science
PhD, University of California, Davis
Combustion, nanomaterials

Elliot L. Elson (Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics)
(http://dbbs.wustl.edu/faculty/Pages/faculty_bio.aspx?SID=188)
Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics
PhD, Stanford University
Biochemistry and molecular biophysics

Michael D. Harris (Physical Therapy, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science) (https://pt.wustl.edu/people/michael-d-harris-phd/)
PhD, University of Utah
Whole body and joint-level orthopaedic biomechanics

Kenneth F. Kelton (Physics) (https://physics.wustl.edu/people/kenneth-f-kelton/)
Arthur Holly Compton Professor of Arts & Sciences
PhD, Harvard University
Study and production of titanium-based quasicrystals and related phases

Eric C. Leuthardt (Neurological Surgery and Biomedical Engineering) (http://www.neurosurgery.wustl.edu/patient-care/find-a-physician/clinical-faculty/eric-c-leuthardt-md-250/)
MD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Neurological surgery

Lori Setton (Biomedical Engineering) (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Lori-Setton.html)
Lucy and Stanley Lopata Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering
PhD, Columbia University
Biomechanics for local drug delivery; tissue regeneration specific to the knee joints and spine

Matthew J. Silva (Orthopaedic Surgery) (http://www.orthoresearch.wustl.edu/content/Laboratories/2963/Matthew-Silva/Silva-Lab/Overview.aspx)
Julia and Walter R. Peterson Orthopaedic Research Professor
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Biomechanics of age-related fractures and osteoporosis

Simon Tang (Orthopaedic Surgery and Biomedical Engineering) (http://www.orthoresearch.wustl.edu/content/Laboratories/3043/Simon-Tang/Tang-Lab/Overview.aspx)
PhD, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Biological mechanisms

Senior Professors

Phillip L. Gould
PhD, Northwestern University
Structural analysis and design, shell analysis and design, biomechanical engineering

Kenneth L. Jerina (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Ken-Jerina.html)
DSc, Washington University
Materials, design, solid mechanics, fatigue and fracture

Salvatore P. Sutera
PhD, California Institute of Technology
Viscous flow, bio rheology
Barna A. Szabo  
PhD, State University of New York at Buffalo  
Numerical simulation of mechanical systems, finite-element methods  

**Lecturers**

Sharniece Holland (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Sharniece-Holland.html)  
PhD, University of Alabama  
Additive manufacturing and mathematics  

Jeffery Krampf (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Jeff-Krampf.html)  
MS, Washington University  
Fluid mechanics, modeling, and design  

J. Jackson Potter (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Jackson-Potter.html)  
PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Senior design  

H. Shaun Sellers (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Shaun-Sellers.html)  
PhD, Johns Hopkins University  
Mechanics and materials  

Louis G. Woodhams (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Louis-Woodhams.html)  
BS, University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Computer-aided design  

**Senior Research Associate**

DSc, Washington University  
Biomechanics, solid mechanics  

**Adjunct Instructors**

Ricardo L. Actis  
DSc, Washington University  
Finite element analysis, numerical simulation, aircraft structures  

Robert G. Becnel  
MS, Washington University  
FE review  

John D. Biggs  
MEng, Washington University  
Thermal science  

Andrew W. Cary  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Computational fluid dynamics  

Dan E. Driemeyer  
PhD, University of Illinois  
Thermoscience  

Richard S. Dyer  
PhD, Washington University  
Propulsion, thermodynamics, fluids  

Timothy W. Jackson  
PhD, University of Washington  
Structural analysis and dynamics  

Richard R. Janis  
MS, Washington University  
Building environmental systems  

Dale M. Pitt  
DSc, Washington University  
Aeroelasticity  

Gary D. Renieri  
PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Structural applications, composite materials  

Krishnan K. Sankaran  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Metallic materials  

Michael C. Wendl  
DSc, Washington University  
Mathematical theory and computational methods in biology and engineering  

**Laboratory and Design Specialist**

Chiamaka Asinugo (https://engineering.wustl.edu/faculty/Chiamaka-Asinugo.html)  
MS, Washington University  
Mechanical engineering design  

**Professor Emeritus**

Wallace B. Diboll Jr.  
MSME, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Dynamics, vibrations, engineering design  

**Degree Requirements**

**PhD in Mechanical Engineering or Aerospace Engineering**

**Policies & Regulations**

A key objective of the doctoral program is to promote cutting-edge multidisciplinary research and education in the areas of mechanical engineering and materials science. Students are selected for admission to the program by a competitive process, and they typically start in the fall semester. On arriving at Washington University in St. Louis, the student will be advised by the temporary adviser on all procedural issues. The student will choose a permanent adviser by the end of the first year of residency in the program.
Summary of Requirements for Doctoral Students

The following is a brief summary of the requirements for students in the Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science doctoral programs:

1. Pass the qualifying exams. Qualifying exams should be taken by the end of the first year.
2. Prepare and defend a research proposal. The research proposal should be defended by the end of the third year.
3. Write and successfully defend the doctoral dissertation.
4. Complete a minimum of 36 units of course credit and a minimum of 24 units of doctoral research; a total of 72 credit units is required to earn the PhD degree.
5. Satisfy the applicable teaching requirements of the Graduate School.

Degrees Offered

The Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science (MEMS) offers the following doctoral degrees:

- PhD in Mechanical Engineering
- PhD in Aerospace Engineering
- DSc in Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, or Materials Science

The Doctor of Science (DSc) has similar requirements to the PhD but without the teaching requirement. For a list of differences, please refer to the DSc and PhD Comparison (PDF) (https://mems.wustl.edu/graduate/programs/Documents/DoctoralComparisonSection.pdf).

- Students may also pursue a PhD in Materials Science — through the Institute of Materials Science & Engineering (IMSE) — while working with professors from the Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science. For details about this program, visit the IMSE Graduate Program (http://imse.wustl.edu/graduate-program/) webpage.

For more information about MEMS PhD degrees, visit the MEMS Graduate Degree Programs (https://mems.wustl.edu/graduate/programs/Pages/default.aspx) webpage.