Department/School: Mechanical Engineering

Vision: The department of Mechanical Engineering strives to be recognized as an excellent education center for regional economic mobility while promoting a caring and welcoming environment for students, staff, and faculty.

Mission: The Department of Mechanical Engineering will provide students a quality education to prepare them for the practice of engineering with sufficient depth to continue their education beyond the baccalaureate degree. The curriculum will provide skills that enhance the understanding of the applications of engineering sciences. In order to provide an awareness of current and emerging industrial practice, the department will provide the students the opportunity to participate in professional organizations, industrial internships or co-op experiences, and scholarly activities including supervised research. The faculty will be readily accessible and continuously strive to improve their instructional materials and the methods of dissemination. The faculty will also practice lifelong learning by keeping abreast of and participating in the latest developments in their chosen areas of expertise and interacting across disciplines. The opportunity for student success in the undergraduate programs will be enhanced by liberal access to the computational facilities and laboratories.

PROFILE

Majors: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Graduate Programs: Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Students
- Number of Students: 967
- Characteristics: 908 UG (353 LL and 555 UL) and 59 Graduate

Faculty
- Number of Faculty: 23
- Ranks: Professors __10__ Associate Prof. __2__ Assistant Prof. __5__ Lecturers __6__

Campus Program Offering
- 64% of degree available on both campuses
- 54% of major courses are available at both campuses
- 100% of degree & major courses in the first 2 years of study per major map are available at both campuses
- 7% of major courses in the upper division are available at both campuses
- 0% of graduate program/courses are available at both campuses

Note: You may include details of availability by campus and any other related information that would be helpful.

Stats & Highlights:
- Very diverse faculty: 41% Hispanic, 23% from the RGV, US 31%, Middle East 14%, Europe 14%, Asia 18%, Mexico and Central America 23%
- Faculty very devoted to the teaching enterprise: 9 recipients of the UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award
- Number of BSME degrees awarded increased from 75 in FY2015-16 to 145 in FY18-19 (almost 100%). 9th highest among all programs in the university.
- 2 University Research Centers: Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, and the Center for Railway Safety
- 9+ active grants from funding agencies such as Department of Defense (ARL, ONR, AFOSR, AFRL), NSF, TTCI, VentureWell
- Interdisciplinary collaborations with researchers in chemistry, physics, biology, business, and the health sciences.
- Very active in providing undergraduate research experiences
- Developing a robust Technopreneurship program with several faculty-student teams successfully competing in NSF’s ICorp program at the national level
- VMobi [TM] is an NSF funded collaborative entrepreneurial effort with the College of Business & Entrepreneurship to help the Blinds and Persons with Visual Impairment navigate unfamiliar territories.
- 5 active student organizations: ASME, SAE, SWE, SHPE, TBTI
- Lead two K-12 STEM programs: TexPREP & UTCRS Railway Safety Summer Camps for 2,000 elementary, middle, and high school students each year, providing over 130,000 hours of STEM related instruction

Revised: July 31, 2020
Success Stories/"Bragging":
- History of graduates receiving excellent jobs, including positions at leading research institutions agencies
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- Recipient of the 2017 UTRGV Department Excellence Award in Faculty Mentoring
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- Dr. Lozano awarded the Mexicanos Distinguidos Medal; Outstanding Research Award from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education; Latina of Influence by Hispanic Lifestyle; US Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM); induction as a Fellow into the National Academy of Inventors
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- Dr. Tarawneh awarded the Inaugural Workforce Development & Technology Transfer Leadership Award from the Council of University Transportation Centers
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- Dr. Dumitru Caruntu is an Associate Editor of 5 international journals including the ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurements and Control
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- New Ph.D. Proposal in Materials Science and Engineering in collaboration with COS
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- New MS degrees under preparation: M.S. in Biomedical Engineering in collaboration with COS and the Division of Health Affairs
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- Robust student mentoring to provide them with opportunities in research, to present their work at conferences, to network, to attend summer research opportunities in preparation for graduate studies, and to attend professional development workshops.
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- Active efforts to coordinate critical service courses and implement effective strategies (e.g. CBI) to increase student success.

Traditions:
- Student/faculty events or traditions such as the “National Engineering Week”
- ME Social Events (e.g. potlucks at faculty social meetings)
- Recognition of students achievement with end-of-the year medal awards ceremony.
- Faculty mentor students on graduate school, fellowship and career opportunities
- All majors are required to engage in a year-long design experience

Mantra/Slogan: “Our faculty, staff, and students care”