Petroleum Engineering (B.S.)

Tap into a field growing twice as fast as the national average.

UND's Petroleum Engineering program, the only one in North Dakota, prepares you to enter a rapidly growing field critical to the state's economy. The program, designed with industry input, offers hands-on experience that gives you the technical skills to recover oil and gas from new and existing resources, and the insight you'll need to address future industry challenges.

Program Snapshot

Program type: Major  
Format: On-campus or online  
Est. time to complete: 4 years (6+ online)  
Credit hours: 129

Why Study Petroleum Engineering at UND?

North Dakota is the nation's second-largest leading producer of oil, a status driven by advances in recovering resources from the enormous Williston Basin. We're committed to educating the next generation of petroleum engineers, who will not only fulfill today's demand for domestic oil but lead the way to discovering safe, reliable and affordable new ways of continuing this growth tomorrow.

You'll receive a thorough grounding in chemistry, engineering, geology and physics while also learning about ethics, safety, communications and other skills necessary to pursuing an entry-level job in the field. In addition, you'll get a firm understanding of the issues affecting the industry, including science and technology; economics and business; policy and regulation; and society and behavior.

Top Online Engineering College in the Nation

Every engineering program offers education, but not every program prepares students to make a real impact the way UND does. UND is increasingly regarded as one of the top academic and research institutions in the nation for engineering. We consistently rank among the best for educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes.

#3 - Best Online Colleges Offering Bachelor's in Engineering Degrees in 2019
#5 - Most Affordable Petroleum Engineering Degrees in 2019

ABET Accredited Petroleum Engineering Program

Study petroleum engineering at an accredited university. The UND petroleum engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.

Application Deadlines

FALL: FEB. 1* (ON CAMPUS FRESHMEN) APRIL 15* (ON CAMPUS TRANSFER STUDENTS) AUG. 10 (ONLINE)  
SPRING: DEC. 1  
SUMMER: APRIL 1 (ON CAMPUS) | MAY 1 (ONLINE)  
*academic scholarship priority deadline
Petroleum Engineering at UND

- Access the only core and sample library in North Dakota, which contains samples from three-quarters of the state’s oil and coal reservoirs.
- Tour oil fields around the world without leaving campus in the newly opened Hess Virtual Reality Lab.
- Take a seat at the Drilling Systems Control Simulator and learn how to manage day-to-day operations at oil and gas wells, or crisis situations, in complete safety.
- Get a career-ready education thanks to UND’s relationships with industry partners such as the American Petroleum Institute, North Dakota Petroleum Council and our own Industry Advisory Council.
- Gain real-world experience while you’re still a student through summer internships.

Jobs in Petroleum Engineering

128K
Median salary in 2016 for a petroleum engineer in the U.S.*

15%
Expected growth in demand for petroleum engineers by 2026 - much faster than the average for all careers*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Petroleum engineers are in great demand: More than 90 percent of our graduates find jobs. Employers of petroleum engineers are involved in the following fields:

- Petroleum exploration
- Geologic formation characterization
- Drilling and fracturing
- Computer simulation
- Equipment and process design to optimize recovery
- Monitoring of production and processing

In addition, petroleum engineers are involved in refining, petro-chemical production and transportation of products, as well as geosciences, environmental efforts and international business.