Space Studies Degree

Prepare for a career in space with a broad-based approach that links engineering, science and policy.

UND has the first space studies program of its kind in the world! Our master's in Space Studies is designed for those seeking to enter the space field or are an aerospace professional who wishes to expand your knowledge.

| Program type: Master's Degree |
| Format: On Campus or Online |
| Est. time to complete: 2-4 years |
| Credit hours: 33 |

Why earn a space studies degree?

Application Deadlines

| Fall: April 30 |
| Spring: Oct. 31 |
| Summer: Feb. 28 |

Completed applications and all required materials must be received by above application deadlines.

In the M.S. in Space Studies, you'll gain a broad view of space with a program that includes disciplines such as:

- Planetary science
- Space engineering
- Life support systems
- Space policy and law
- Space history
- Space-related aspects of business and management

Space Studies Graduate Programs

Your specialized training can be achieved through thesis or non-thesis options with an opportunity to focus in an area of faculty research. Students have participated in vital NASA-funded research, such as design and construction of a Lunar/Mars habitat prototype and pressurized electric rovers. In fact, UND was the first university with a NASA-funded laboratory dedicated to designing and constructing space-exploration and planetary surface exploration suits. UND is also the first university with two fully operational spaceflight simulators.

We've spent the last 30 years nurturing our students to success. We received the JSC Certificate of Appreciation for 25 years of outstanding service in university education in space studies from the NASA Johnson Space Center. You'll have the opportunity to join students that produce publications in diverse fields of expertise and serve the space community and nation.

Space Studies Master's Programs Online

If need the flexibility of schedule or location of study, we encourage you to look at our online program option. Whether you're a working professional or deployed for military duty, our faculty have 25+ years of experience supporting the needs of online learners. We understand the unique challenges you may face.
UND is strategically focusing research on unmanned autonomous systems, big data, and building on our expertise in space research.

Unlike similar programs, UND students gain a broad-based understanding of the links between engineering, space science and policy.

Gain access to advanced research. Get real-world learning experiences in the UND Human Spaceflight Laboratory, the Spacecraft Simulator facility and the Space Studies Observatory.

Our graduates perform payload integration for Falcon rockets and work on the development of the Space Launch System. They also work in Mission Control and are researchers at several NASA Centers.

UND is the first institution in the nation to become a part of U.S. Space Force’s University Partnership Program.

With close ties to U.S. Space Force, U.S. Space Command, and NASA you'll have opportunities to engage with the cutting edge of space industry.

Careers with a Space Studies Degree

99K  Median salary for atmospheric scientist or meteorologist  
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Atmospheric Scientists

118K  Median salary for an aerospace engineer  
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Aerospace Engineers

The space industry is progressing toward a combination of government and privately funded space exploration and research efforts. This is resulting in the need for professionals with a broad background in space sciences and related fields. UND’s space studies program offers diverse learning experiences so you can progress or advance in professions such as:

- Aerospace Business Creator
- Aerospace & Systems Engineer
- Aerospace Program Manager
- Mission Controller
- Space Scientists
- Space Systems Operator
- STEM Educator

A master's degree in Space Studies gives you the strategic skills you need, including:

- Space Law and Policy
- Orbital Mechanics
- Project Management
- Strategic Planning
- Systems Engineering
- Technical Writing
- Astronomy
- Spacecraft

Results of Space Studies Graduate Programs

As a graduate, you will be set up for professional success in the space industry. Our alumni have gone on to a variety of successful careers with:

- NASA
- Space Force
- Space Command
- USAF
- Space Exploration (SpaceX)
- Paragon Space Technology
- Blue Origin
- Boeing Space
- Lockheed Martin
- Science museums and planetariums
Federal agencies

Top Space Studies Degree

Space Studies grad is now an experimental electronics engineer with NASA. Read Stefan's Story

Explore More Options

Connect with the faculty you’ll work with or discover additional majors at UND's world-renowned center for aerospace learning.

- Department of Space Studies
- Aerospace Graduate Programs

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