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

Launch your successful career in space exploration with a multi-disciplinary program that can expand your career path. 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, and space-related aspects of business and management.

Program Snapshot

Program type: Master’s Degree
Format: On-campus or online
Est. time to complete: 2-4 years
Credit hours: 33

Why Study Space Studies at UND?

Space exploration has an all-encompassing nature, requiring a unique mix of experience and expertise that can link policy, business, law, science and engineering. To be successful in a rapidly evolving and expanding space industry, a holistic, graduate degree education is needed.

This UND graduate program gives you that broad base of knowledge that can serve as a perfect launch pad for you to thrive. 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 rover. 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.

Application Deadlines

FALL: APR 30
SPRING: OCT 31
SUMMER: FEB 28

Space Studies M.S. Overview

- Prepare for a future in the academic, commercial, and governmental sectors of the rapidly-growing field of space exploration.
- Unlike similar programs, UND students gain a broad-based understanding of the links between engineering, space science and policy.
- Gain access to advanced research and get real-world learning experiences in the UND Human Spaceflight Laborator, the Spacecraft Simulator facility and the Space Studies Observatory.

Space Studies Careers

92K  Median salary for a space scientist*
82K  Median salary for an aerospace engineer**
As the space industry evolves and progresses toward a combination of government and privately funded space exploration and research efforts, the need for those with a broad background in space sciences and related fields have opportunities in many areas.

The Space Studies M.S. program has recent graduates working at SpaceX, Blue Origin, Paragon Space Technology, Boeing Space, Lockheed-Martin, and other commercial space companies, as well as for NASA and NASA-contractors. The programs that these graduates are working on include payload integration for Falcon rockets, development of the Space Launch System, numerous graduates in Mission Control at various NASA Centers, and researchers at several NASA Centers. This 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