# General Mechanical Engineering

**About the Major:**

Those who study mechanical engineering learn about motion and energy, and they study fluid, solid and thermal mechanics. They spend time in labs, where they develop problem-solving skills and evaluate and design products. These products can range from prosthetics to machine parts and car engines.

**Marketable Skills Developed in this Major:**

- Developing strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Investigate equipment failures or difficulties to diagnose faulty operation and recommend remedial actions
- Design or redesign mechanical and thermal devices or subsystems, using analysis and computer-aided design
- Develop and test prototypes of devices
- Conduct research that tests or analyzes the feasibility, design, operation, or performance of equipment, components, or systems
- Provide feedback to design engineers on customer problems or needs
- Evaluate mechanical designs or prototypes for energy performance or environmental impact

**Relevant Fields:**

- Automotive
- Electronics
- Chemical products
- Petroleum
- Textiles
- Industrial equipment
- Heating and air conditioning systems

**Sample Occupational Titles with a Bachelor's Degree:**

- Manufacturing Engineer
- Opto-Mechanical Engineer
- Hydraulic Mechanical Engineer
- Turbomachinery Engineer

**Professional Associations:**

- U.S. Department of the Navy
- Coffman Engineers
- Johnson & Johnson
- Ford Motor Company
- General Electric (GE)

**Career Opportunities and Job Outlook:**

Employment of mechanical engineers is projected to grow 7 percent from 2020 to 2030, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 20,200 openings for mechanical engineers are projected each year, on average, over the decade.

**Salary Estimates:**

The median annual wage for mechanical engineers was $90,160 in May 2020.

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary.)