

AEROSPACE SOARS

The past two decades have witnessed tremendous growth in the number of aerospace engineering degrees awarded at both undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2018, over three times as many bachelor's degrees were awarded as in 2000. Master's degrees in the field were up 132 percent in 2018 over 2000, and doctoral degrees saw a 93 percent jump. This growth is comparable to the decade 1960 to 1970, when NASA, racing to send astronauts to the moon, expanded its science and engineering workforce by 294 percent. The U.S. government currently counts astronautics (spacecraft) and aeronautics (aircraft) degrees together, so it's unclear which of the two disciplines within aerospace engineering has grown the fastest. But the number of programs in astronautical engineering has grown sufficiently that the U.S. Department of Education plans to create a separate Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code for stand-alone astronautical engineering programs starting in 2020. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 6.5 percent increase in U.S. aerospace engineering jobs (currently about 140,000) by 2026, driven by increases both in jet travel and the growth of the private space industry. With baby boomers retiring, aerospace engineering graduates will likely have little trouble finding jobs.

DEGREES AWARDED			
YEAR	BACHELOR'S	MASTER'S	DOCTORAL
2000	1,296	686	214
2001	1,614	668	210
2002	1,709	732	211
2003	2,011	720	194
2004	2,232	923	210
2005	2,371	1,043	241
2006	2,704	1,094	237
2007	2,788	1,056	259
2008	2,930	1,096	252
2009	3,057	1,075	276
2010	3,218	1,166	254
2011	3,459	1,398	280
2012	3,661	1,443	317
2013	3,595	1,308	351
2014	3,581	1,410	368
2015	3,803	1,380	350
2016	3,880	1,415	371
2017	4,050	1,528	396
2018	4,164	1,589	412

YEAR	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE CHANGE		
2017-2018	92.5	131.6	221.3
2016-2017	85.0	122.7	212.5
2015-2016	73.4	106.3	199.4
2014-2015	63.6	101.2	193.4
2013-2014	72.0	105.5	176.3
2012-2013	64.0	90.7	177.4
2011-2012	48.1	110.3	182.5
2010-2011	30.8	103.8	166.9
2009-2010	18.7	70.0	148.3
2008-2009	29.0	56.7	135.9
2007-2008	17.8	59.8	126.1
2006-2007	21.0	53.9	115.1
2005-2006	10.7	59.5	108.6
2004-2005	12.6	52.0	82.9
2003-2004	-1.9	34.5	72.2
2002-2003	-9.3	5.0	55.2
2001-2002	-1.4	6.7	31.9
2000-2001	-2.6	-1.9	24.5

PERCENTAGE CHANGE
2000 - 2018
221.3
131.6
92.5

DEGREES AWARDED	
2000	2018
1,296	4,164
686	1,589
214	412

BACHELOR'S
MASTER'S
DOCTORAL