

University of Southern California
VITERBI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Ph.D. in Astronautical Engineering
Program Learning Objectives

The purpose of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering Doctor of Philosophy program in Astronautical Engineering is to prepare its graduates for research-oriented careers in leading academic institutions, industry, and government.

- USC Viterbi School of Engineering doctoral students enrolled in the Astronautical Engineering program will demonstrate understanding of contemporary research in the science and technology of space missions, vehicles and subsystems and the space environment, and be able to implement innovative research practices under the guidance of their faculty advisor and in concert with their research team.
- USC doctoral students enrolled in the Astronautical Engineering program will demonstrate understanding of applying contemporary research in Astronautical Engineering to industry contexts and be able to engage in innovative practices informed by such research in diverse contexts.
- USC doctoral students enrolled in the Astronautical Engineering program will demonstrate understanding of leading research teams by mentoring undergraduate and master's students as well as less advanced Ph.D. students.
- USC doctoral students enrolled in the Astronautical Engineering program will launch an independent research agenda under the guidance of their faculty advisors.
- USC doctoral students enrolled in the Astronautical Engineering program will complete and orally defend an acceptable dissertation based on original investigation and supervised by their dissertation committees. The dissertation must show mastery of an area of emphasis within Astronautical Engineering, capacity for independent research, and a scholarly result.