

Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics - Department  
Head  
University of Alabama

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Downloaded On: Oct. 9, 2025 2:33am

Posted Oct. 8, 2025, set to expire Oct. 7, 2026

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| <b>Job Title</b>            | Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics - Department Head   |
| <b>Department</b>           | Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics<br><a href="https://aem.eng.ua.edu/">https://aem.eng.ua.edu/</a>  |
| <b>Institution</b>          | University of Alabama<br>Tuscaloosa, Alabama  |
| <b>Date Posted</b>          | Oct. 8, 2025  |
| <b>Application Deadline</b> | Open until filled   |
| <b>Position Start Date</b>  | Aug. 16, 2026   |
| <b>Job Categories</b>       | Professor<br>Department Head/Head/Chair   |
| <b>Academic Field(s)</b>    | Engineering Mechanics<br>Aerospace/Aeronautical/Astronautics<br>Mechanical Engineering  |
| <b>Apply Online Here</b>    | <a href="https://careers.ua.edu/jobs/39cefaca-90d2-450a-a4fe-5da743c47111">https://careers.ua.edu/jobs/39cefaca-90d2-450a-a4fe-5da743c47111</a> |
| <b>Apply By Email</b>       |   |
| <b>Job Description</b>      |   |

The Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics (AEM: <https://aem.eng.ua.edu>) and the College of Engineering (CoE - <https://eng.ua.edu>) at The University of Alabama (UA: <https://ua.edu>) invite applications for the position of Department Head of the UA Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics. The anticipated start date for the position is Fall 2026 or earlier as appropriate. This opportunity presents the chance for a dynamic and visionary leader who has a demonstrated record of success as an outstanding scholar, researcher, teacher, and mentor to join our UA College of Engineering and our AEM Department during a period of record growth and success, with opportunities and significant resources at their disposal to help grow and shape the program into

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one of the leading departments of aerospace engineering and mechanics in the nation.

Candidates with prestigious achievements, significant impact in their fields, and exceptional national and international reputations will be eligible for consideration for significant endowment support through appointment as an Endowed Shelby Distinguished Professor (<https://provost.ua.edu/the-shelby-endowment-for-distinguished-faculty/>). These Shelby Distinguished Professor positions are one of the highest honors bestowed upon faculty at The University of Alabama, and candidates who feel their record and accomplishments warrant consideration for this additional honor should indicate this in their cover letter.

The Head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics is the academic and administrative leader of the department. The expectation is that this individual will serve as Department Head for a minimum of 5 years, and renewal of the position beyond that time frame is possible. The Department Head is part of the College of Engineering (CoE) senior leadership team, serving as a member of the Dean's Advisory Council for the College. The Department Head is directly supported by two additional faculty members who are appointed by the Department Head as Associate Department Heads for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies. The Department Head and department are supported by a professional staff team which includes an Administrative Assistant to the Department Head. The Department Head we seek will have an exciting opportunity to play a central role in a dynamic and fast-growing education and research enterprise.

Successful candidates will be expected to contribute to the life of the department, college, and university through research, teaching, and service contributions consistent with the Department Head responsibilities. Candidates who have an accomplished track record in research and graduate education are strongly encouraged to apply, as candidates are expected to have a desire to continue to set an example for the department and its faculty by continuing to advise both graduate and undergraduate research students supported by an extramurally funded research program. Since the Department Head will serve as and be appointed also as a tenured faculty member, it is expected that they will maintain a high-quality, high-impact, scholarly productive research program, teach at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels as permitted by their schedule and duties, and advise and mentor Ph.D. students. They will be expected to provide service to the department, university, and broader scholarly community, commensurate with rank and in accordance with applicable university policies.

### Minimum Qualifications

- Ph.D. in aerospace engineering, aeronautical engineering, astronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, or a closely related field from an accredited institution.

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- 10+ years of experience as a tenure-track/tenured faculty member in an aerospace engineering or closely related department.
  - A record consistent with appointment as a Full Professor in the UA Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics.
  - Significant record of scholarship in an engineering department with undergraduate and graduate degree programs.
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### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Have 15+ years of experience as a tenure-track/tenured faculty member in an aerospace engineering or closely related department at a leading peer R1 university.
  - Have a demonstrated record of high-quality research and scholarly publications that is recognized nationally and/or internationally.
  - Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills.
  - Academic leadership experience as an associate department head/chair, department head/chair, center director, or similar level of responsibility.
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### **Instructions and Required Materials for Application**

Required application documents include a: (1) cover letter that includes both the department name and the title of the position for which the candidate is applying, (2) a 2 to 5 page statement describing how the candidate's experience positions them well to serve as the Department Head for Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics at The University of Alabama, (3) a resume/curriculum vitae, (4) a statement of research interests and plans, (5) a one to two page statement of teaching interests, and (6) the names and contact information for at least four professional references (references will not be contacted without prior notification and approval by the candidate).

Review of applications will begin immediately. Applications are preferred on or before October 20, 2025 to receive fullest consideration, but the search will continue until the positions are filled. A position start date of August 16, 2026 would be typical, but flexibility with respect to start date is possible.

### **EEO/AA Policy**

Prior to hiring, the final candidate(s) must successfully pass a pre-employment background investigation and information obtained from social media and other internet sources. A prior conviction reported as a result of the background investigation DOES NOT automatically disqualify a candidate

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from consideration for this position. A candidate with a prior conviction or negative behavioral red flags will receive an individualized review of the prior conviction or negative behavioral red flags before a hiring decision is made.

The University of Alabama is an Equal Employment/Equal Educational Opportunity Institution. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status and will not be discriminated against because of their protected status. Applicants to and employees of this institution are protected under Federal law from discrimination on several bases. Follow the link below to find out more. "EEO is the Law"

<https://www.eeoc.gov/overview>

### **Contact Information**

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

### **Contact**

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