Shared Values and Community Commitments

Aerospace Engineering Undergraduate Program

Shared Values

As members of an aerospace engineering learning community, we uphold values that guide our teaching, learning, and collaboration. These values apply to students, faculty, and staff and reflect the standards of the aerospace profession.

We commit to:

- **Be Curious** — Asking questions, seeking understanding, and engaging deeply with ideas
- **Be Prepared** — Coming ready to contribute and participate actively
- **Be Respectful** — Communicating professionally and treating every person with courtesy
- **Be Responsible** — Meeting obligations, managing time effectively, and communicating proactively
- **Be Supportive** — Contributing to a supportive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed.
- **Be Collaborative** — Working constructively and ethically in teams and project environments
- **Be Excellent Together** - Pursuing high standards through shared efforts, accountability, and pride in our work and community

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Purpose

These shared commitments articulate how we sustain a respectful, fair and welcoming learning culture of excellence. They represent mutual standards of collaboration, not directives from one group to another.

Professional Conduct

All department members commit to:

- Treating one another with professionalism and respect
- Contributing to a departmental environment enabling learning for all
- Addressing concerns through constructive communication

Teaching and Learning Commitments

Students commit to:

- Preparing for and actively participating in classes, labs, and team activities
- Seeking assistance early and taking ownership of their learning
- Minimizing distractions and engaging fully with course material

Instructors commit to:

- Designing organized and purposeful learning experiences
- Communicating goals, policies, and expectations clearly
- Encouraging engagement and supporting student learning with fairness and empathy

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Communication and Responsiveness

We commit to communicating professionally and in a timely manner by:

- Using professional tone and appropriate salutations in communication
- Pairing communication appropriately with type of inquiry (e.g., using email primarily for logistical and administrative matters and bringing substantive questions to class or office hours, or as specified in each course syllabus)
- Checking and responding to university email regularly
- Providing responses within a reasonable timeframe (typically two business days)
- Communicating availability and response-time expectations clearly

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Workload and Time Commitment

We support balanced academic effort by:

- Planning for approximately three hours of study and preparation per credit hour weekly (students)
- Designing coursework aligned with course learning objectives and expected credit hour effort, while aiming to avoid unnecessary workload spikes (instructors)
- Communicating early about challenges affecting performance or expectations (everyone)

Assessment and Feedback

We support fair and constructive evaluation by:

- Upholding academic integrity and using feedback to improve performance (students)
- Providing transparent grading criteria and returning feedback periodically throughout the semester and in a timely manner (typically 1-2 weeks) (instructional team)

Collaboration and Teamwork

We recognize teamwork as a foundational skill in aerospace practice and commit to shared habits that support effective collaboration.

Students commit to:

- Contributing reliably and completing assigned responsibilities
- Communicating clearly and in a timely manner with teammates
- Addressing disagreements constructively and early
- Valuing diverse perspectives and technical approaches
- Providing honest, respectful, and professional peer feedback
- Seeking support from instructors or advisors when team challenges escalate

Instructors commit to:

- Establishing clear expectations for team roles, communication, and accountability
- Providing guidance on effective teamwork practices and conflict resolution

- Monitoring team functioning and responding to concerns in a timely way
- Offering mechanisms for fair assessment, including peer or self-evaluation where appropriate
- Supporting teams in navigating technical and interpersonal challenges

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Supportive Learning Community

We commit to fostering a supportive learning environment by:

- Welcoming diverse backgrounds and viewpoints
- Treating all community members with fairness and respect
- Speaking up or seeking support when exclusion or disrespect occurs

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Closing Statement

These shared commitments reflect our collective responsibility to one another and to the standards of the aerospace profession. We will revisit and refine them regularly to support student learning, community member well-being, and a healthy, productive departmental culture of excellence.