

## Career Planning in ME

You are advised to think about your post Bachelor's (BS) graduation plans as early as two years in advance of your planned graduation. Graduates typically become working professional mechanical engineers in Hawai'i or on the mainland. They may also find a profession in a related field, e.g., another engineering fields. Another option is graduate school to earn a master of science (MS) or PhD degree.

Here are some tips to help find employment:

- Find out about job opportunities , e.g.,
  - The campus has a Center for Career Development and Student Employment (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/careercenter/>).
  - The College of Engineering has Career Days every semester. You can find them on the College's web site ([www.eng.hawaii.edu](http://www.eng.hawaii.edu)) in the calendar section or on the list of future events.
  - The Internet is another resource to find employment opportunities.
- Employers will visit the UH Manoa campus, participate in Career Day, and conduct on-campus interviews. Find out when these employers visit and how to sign up for interviews. If you are a sophomore or junior and are interested in an internship program, they may let you sign up for an interview if they have openings and extra time.
- Write a resume for yourself. Start this as soon as possible, since it takes longer than you think. If you are a sophomore or junior, your resume can be used to find a summer job or an internship.
- Summer jobs and internships at engineering companies or agencies can be valuable experience. Many of these opportunities are at the same companies and agencies where you can find full-time employment. The Center for Career Development and Student Employment, the College of Engineering's Career Days, and the Internet are good places to start. Some of these opportunities are on the mainland, and the companies often help with travel and housing. Some programs require planning well in advance (between 6 to 9 months).
- Graduate school is another opportunity. Most graduate programs (including UH Manoa Department of Mechanical Engineering) pay for your full tuition and monthly stipend for your living expenses if you can secure assistantships (such as a Research Assistantship, RA, or Teaching Assistantship, TA) from the school you are interested in. There may also be graduate fellowship/scholarship opportunities at the school. Fellowships are also available from federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation ([www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)); Department of Energy ([www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)); Department of Defense ([www.dod.gov](http://www.dod.gov)) and its various agencies such as Army, Navy, Airforce, DARPA; NASA ([www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)), as well as organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineering ([www.asme.org](http://www.asme.org)) and the Society of Women Engineers ([societyofwomenengineers.swe.org](http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org)). An Internet search can lead to more fellowship

opportunities. Again, you should get started on this at least two years before your planned graduation.

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- Find schools that you are interested in and learn about their application requirements and deadlines. Much of this information is on the Internet. Note that some schools only allow admission in the fall.
- Talk to your faculty advisor or mentor about possible schools and graduate studies.
- Many of the Graduate Programs require Graduate Record Examination (GRE) ([www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/)) scores. Learn about GRE and their deadlines. Practice exams can help.