WHAT IS PETROLEUM ENGINEERING?

Global economies would collapse without it. Life as we know it would cease to exist without oil and gas, and petroleum engineers are the only ones who know how to extract it safely and efficiently from the earth. They solve the most critical and pressing global energy challenges facing humanity, including how to meet increasing global demand for energy while ensuring the safety and cleanliness of our environment.

WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON?

The vision for the UH Cullen College of Engineering petroleum engineering program is to be the center of world-class petroleum engineering education, research and service in the city of Houston, the center of the world’s petroleum industry. Petroleum engineering graduate students are taught by leading educators with strong research and industrial backgrounds. Students are prepared to address the challenges of the world’s energy needs responsibly, to exceed the evolving expectations of employers in the petroleum and energy industries, to sustain industry leading skills and to be leaders in industry, academia and government.
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PETROLEUM ENGINEERING GRADUATE DEGREE?

Career opportunities for petroleum engineers are excellent, especially in the city of Houston, the Energy Capital of the World. Employment opportunities are widely available with the major integrated international energy companies and service providers, or the many intermediate and independent oil and gas producers, drilling companies, special equipment companies and industry support companies. Employment can be domestic or international, onshore or offshore, and can involve the most sophisticated intelligent systems and technologies. Early on, career opportunities may involve specific technical and operational assignments, and later, engineering and business leadership positions. Many petroleum engineers with appropriate experience and knowledge have started their own oil and gas companies.

A 2019 salary survey produced by Payscale.com found that new petroleum engineering graduates earn an average starting salary of $86,524. National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates from 2018 show petroleum engineers earned a mean annual salary of $156,370.

WHAT TYPES OF GRADUATE DEGREES DO YOU OFFER IN PETROLEUM ENGINEERING?

The UH Cullen College of Engineering offers M.S. non-thesis, M.S. thesis and Ph.D. degrees in petroleum engineering, as well as a graduate-level certificate program in “Unconventional Reservoirs.”

FAST FACTS

TOTAL GRADUATE STUDENTS IN DEPARTMENT

46 M.S.

36 PH.D.

139 TOTAL FACULTY IN COLLEGE

$30M+ IN RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

AVERAGE STARTING SALARY

$86,524

AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY

$156,370

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on eligibility and admissions requirements, please visit petro.uh.edu/graduate