MINING ENGINEERING

The mining engineering program in the department of mining and nuclear engineering offers the graduate certificate, master of engineering (M.E.), master of science (M.S.), doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) and doctor of engineering (D.E.) degrees in mining engineering. The M.S. with thesis and Ph.D. degrees require research components for program completion. The core research strengths include surface mining methods and heavy mining machinery, mine ventilation and mine atmospheric control, explosives engineering, sustainable development and mine optimization, rock mechanics and ground control, minerals, coal and materials processing, minerals and energy economics, and underground mining methods and equipment. Graduate students in any of these programs must consult the graduate degree requirements in mining engineering, the graduate catalog of Missouri S&T and their respective advisors.

The graduate certificate program requires 12 credit hours in core courses. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00/4.00 to receive the graduate certificate in mining engineering. The ME program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, offered via distance (online). The required credit hours include 15 core credit hours, 12 credit hours in technical electives and 3 credit hours for a semester project. The mining engineering program offers an M.S. degree with thesis for onsite students and an M.S. by coursework option for distance students. The M.S. degree with thesis option requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, including the required research for the thesis. The program requirements must include a minimum of 6 credit hours of 6000-level lecture courses, 6 credit hours of courses outside the major field, and 6 credit hours for thesis research. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination of the thesis to complete the program. The M.S. degree by coursework option requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, including a minimum of 9 credit hours of 6000-level lecture courses and 3 credit hours for a semester project. The Ph.D. program requires a minimum of 3 years of full-time study beyond the bachelor’s degree, including research work for the dissertation. Ph.D. candidates must complete at least 15 credit hours of course work at Missouri S&T and are required to pass the qualifying, comprehensive and final oral examinations of the Ph.D. program. The D.E. program requires a minimum of 3 years of full-time study beyond the bachelor’s degree, including research work for the dissertation. D.E. students must pass the qualifying, comprehensive and final oral examinations and must also satisfy an engineering internship requirement.

Major Research Areas

The eight research major areas include (i) surface mining methods and heavy mining machinery; (ii) mine ventilation and mine atmospheric control; (iii) explosives engineering; (iv) sustainable development and mine optimization; (v) rock mechanics and ground control; (vi) mineral, coal and materials processing; (vii) minerals and energy economics; and (viii) underground mining methods and equipment. Surface mining methods and heavy mining machinery research focuses on surface mining, formation excavation, heavy machinery imaging and integration, mine safety and health, machine and component health, equipment vision, intelligent mining systems and stochastic processes and risks simulation. Specific research frontiers include (i) mining methods, design and production systems; (ii) formation failure dynamics, machine-formation interactions; (iii) kinematics, dynamics and virtual prototype simulation; (iv) machine health and longevity; (v) augmented equipment vision; (vi) machine vibrations and operator health; (vii) tire durability management; (viii) intelligent excavation; (ix) machine automation; (x) random fields and stochastic processes; (xi) numerical, parametric and stochastic simulation.

Mine ventilation and mine atmospheric control research focuses on mine ventilation network modeling and planning, diesel particulate matter (DPM), mine dust control, mine fire simulation and firefighting. Specific research frontiers include (i) ventilation network simulation, (ii) DPM discharge dissipation modeling and control strategies, (iii) spontaneous combustion modeling, firefighting and emergency planning; and (iv) computational fluid dynamics modeling of particulate matter. Explosives engineering research focuses on improvements in commercial explosives and blasting agents, mining-related uses of explosives, explosives safety, blast-resistant structures, barriers to blast, fragments, and ballistic penetration, and explosive-driven pulsed power. Specific research frontiers include (i) design, evaluation, analysis, and test; (ii) barrier concepts, standoff distance analysis, barrier design and test; (iii) design, evaluation, analysis, and test of explosive-driven pulsed power generator concepts and power conditioning systems.

Sustainable development and mine optimization research focuses on resource estimation and ore control, production scheduling and optimization, and critical materials sustainability assessment and modeling. Specific research frontiers include (i) geostatistics, ore (dig) outline optimization; (ii) mixed integer LP formulations, computational efficiency, discrete event simulation, optimization, energy efficiency modeling; (iii) mining applications of life cycle assessment, life cycle sustainability assessment, social acceptance modeling, global critical material supply chain sustainability modeling, reclaimed mine land stray-gas hazards. Rock Mechanics and ground control research focuses on ground control, acoustic emission/microseismic, geophysical methods in mines, and non-destructive testing. Specific research frontiers include (i) pillar design, mine support, rockburst, slope stability; (ii) monitoring design, location methods, error analysis; (iii) geotomography, in-seam seismic method, void detection; and (iv) integrity of structures and monitoring of aging infrastructure.

Minerals, coal and materials processing research focuses on mineral processing, tailings management, polymer science, nanotechnology, interfacial science, colloidal interactions in aqueous systems, clays, coal-based fuels, ultrafine and submicron grinding, slurry rheology, carbon separation and synthetic fuels. Minerals and energy economics research focuses on supply and use of minerals and energy in society, minerals and energy markets and electricity markets, minerals and energy and economic growth, economics of minerals and energy infrastructure, minerals and energy policy, minerals and energy derivatives, minerals and energy demand forecast, elasticity of supply and demand in minerals and energy markets, climate change and climate policy, and sustainable minerals and energy development. Underground mining methods and equipment research focuses on mass mining, machine design and automation, underground mine support, machine vibration, novel mining methods, numerical modeling, virtual prototype simulation and computational fluid dynamics.

Major Research Facilities

Mining, minerals and explosives engineering research initiatives are carried out in world-class environments at Missouri S&T. Major research facilities include the following:
• Energetic Materials Research Center (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/researchcentersandinstitutes/energeticmaterialsresearchcenter/)
• Experimental Mine (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/specialfacilitiesandprograms/experimentalmine/#text)
• Mineral Processing Laboratory (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/specialfacilitiesandprograms/mineralprocessinglaboratory/)
• Rock Mechanics and Explosives Research Center (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/researchcentersandinstitutes/rockmechanicsandexplosivesresearchcentermerc/#text)
• Rock Mechanics Laboratory (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/specialfacilitiesandprograms/rockmechanicslaboratory/)
• Virtual Surface Mining Simulator (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/specialfacilitiesandprograms/virtuallsurfaceminingssimulator/)
• High Pressure Waterjet Laboratory (http://catalog.mst.edu/graduate/specialfacilitiesandprograms/highpressurewaterjetlaboratory/#text)

Lana Z Alagha, Assistant Professor
PHD University of Texas at Dallas
Mineral processing, tailings management, polymer science, nanotechnology, interfacial science, colloidal interactions in aqueous systems clays.

Nassib S Aouad, Assistant Professor
PHD Missouri Science and Technology
Mechanical design and automation, machine health and fatigue analysis, machinery and whole-body vibrations, advanced vibrations modeling and analysis, numerical modeling and simulation, virtual prototyping, computational fluid dynamics.

Kwame Awuah-Offei, Associate Professor
PHD University of Missouri-Rolla
Life cycle sustainability assessment, community acceptance modeling, energy efficiency modeling, production optimization, CO2 hazard delineation and innovative post-mining land uses for underground mines.

Samuel Frimpong, Professor¹
PHD University of Alberta, Canada
Surface mining, formation excavation, heavy machinery imaging and integration, intelligent mining systems, stochastic processes and risks simulation, extra heavy oil extraction, and mine safety, health and hazards engineering.

Grzegorz Galecki, Associate Professor
PHD Wroclaw Tech University, Poland
System integration, modeling of mining processes supported by waterjets, novel methods of comminution, particulate processing, coal conversion into fuels, borehole mining, mineral processing.

Maochen Ge, Associate Professor
PHD Penn State University
Rock mechanics and ground control, underground mine design, acoustic emissions, micro-seismic phenomena in underground mines, theory and applications of geotomology, non-destructive structural testing, numerical methods.

Catherine Johnson, Assistant Professor
PHD University of Kentucky

Braden Lusk, Professor¹
PHD University of Missouri-Rolla

Kyle Perry, Assistant Professor¹
PHD University of Kentucky

Paul Nicholas Worsey, Professor¹
PHD University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom
Explosives engineering, drilling and blasting, rock excavation, demolition, commercial pyrotechnics.

MIN ENG 5000 Special Problems (IND 0.0-6.0)
Problems or readings on specific subjects or projects in the department. Consent of the instructor required.

MIN ENG 5001 Special Topics (IND 0.0-6.0)
This course is designed to give the department an opportunity to test a new course. Variable title.

MIN ENG 5113 Advanced Mine Atmosphere Control (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced mine ventilation network based on airflow requirements, control of gases, dust, and temperature, methane drainage, mine fans, network theory based on the Code of Federal Regulations. Computer simulation of ventilation systems, mine fire simulation, and economics of airflow based on underground mine layouts. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4113 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5122 Advanced Topics in Mine Health and Safety (LEC 3.0)
Advanced topics in mine health and safety including practices and regulations; risks and hazards recognition, mitigation and control; disaster prevention and control. Students will complete a research paper or project report. Pre-requisite: Mi Eng 4122 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5212 Advanced Aggregates and Quarrying (LEC 3.0)
Advanced topics in aggregates mining, mine design and planning, and project valuation. In-pit crushing and conveying, and advances in comminution technology for the aggregates industry. Design project or research paper required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4212 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5322 Advanced Coal Mining Methods (LEC 3.0)
Advanced topics in coal mining methods, planning and development of surface and underground mining systems; planning of logistics, resources, infrastructure for large-scale surface coal mines; face preparation, equipment interface, haulage systems, sequencing and scheduling and extraction from underground coal mines. Students will complete a research paper or project report. Prerequisites: Min Eng 4322 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5412 Advanced Aggregates Sizing and Characterization (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced methods for evaluating aggregate occurrences, extraction, material flow sheet analysis; Advances in processing and classification; advanced statistical methods for quality control and assurance, and standards. Students will complete and present a research paper on the subject. Field trip to a nearby quarry required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4412 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5413 Adv Mtl Proc Hghpres Wtr Jet (LEC 3.0)
Advanced methods for continuously generating high pressure, power calculations, applications of waterjets in the mining and manufacturing industries, and safety considerations. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4413 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5422 Advanced Coal Preparation (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced methods for designing coal processing circuity and practices, flowsheet design, sampling, advanced ash and moisture analyzers; coarse, intermediate, and fine coal cleaning; dewatering; dry coal cleaning research. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4422 or Consent of Instructor.
MIN ENG 5423 Advanced Flotation and Hydrometallurgy (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Theoretical basis of froth flotation, electrical characteristics at interfaces, interfacial forces, adsorption kinetics and thermodynamics, flotation reagents, flotation process flowsheets. Physicochemical principles of hydrometallurgical processes, leaching methods and reagents. Hydrometallurgical processes flowsheets. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisites: Mi Eng 4423 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5424 Advanced Mechanics And Design (LAB 1.0 and LEC 2.0)
Strategy of beneficiation as a combination of unit operations: Mineral sampling and particle size distribution, mineral particle mechanics of comminution and energy requirement, mineral crushing and grinding circuits, classification, solid-liquid separation and instrumentation, Mineral processing plant flow sheet design. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisites: Mi Eng 4424 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5522 Advanced Ore Reserve Analysis And Geostatistics (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced discussions on principles of geostatistics, theory of spatially correlated random variables, variance and co-variances and their application on the evaluation of mineral resources, ore reserve estimation, strategic exploration, and production planning. Real case studies from mining industry will be presented. Course project. Prerequisites: Math 3304 & Stat 3113 or instructor consent.

MIN ENG 5532 Advanced Mining Economics (LEC 3.0)

MIN ENG 5612 Principles of Explosives Engineering (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Theory and application of explosives in the mining industry; explosives, initiating systems, characteristics of explosive reactions and rock breakage, fundamentals of blast design, drilling and blasting, regulatory and safety considerations. Prerequisites: Min Eng 2126; successful background check. (Co-listed with Exp Eng 5612).

MIN ENG 5622 Blasting Design And Technology (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced theory and application of explosives in excavation; detailed underground blast design; specialized blasting including blast casting, construction and pre-splitting. Introduction to blasting research. Examination of field applications. Prerequisites: Min Eng 5612. Student must be at least 21 years of age. Successful background check. (Co-listed with Exp Eng 5622).

MIN ENG 5742 Advanced Environmental Aspects of Mining (LEC 3.0)
Applied and fundamental research issues pertaining to – permitting – the legal environment of reclamation and environmental impact assessment; post-mining land-use selection and mine planning for optimum reclamation of all mines: metal, nonmetal, and coal; unit operations of reclamation: drainage, backfill, soil replacement, revegetation, maintenance, etc. Course project. Prerequisites: Min Eng 5932 and 5933 or instructor consent. (Co-listed with GE XXXX).

MIN ENG 5822 Strata Control (LEC 3.0)
A detailed review of artificial ground support, both above and below ground, including slope stabilization techniques and shaft and tunnel liner design. The use of shotcrete, roofbolts, and solid liners and the principles of underground longwall and room and pillar mine support. Longwall and hydraulic mining practice is covered. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4823.

MIN ENG 5823 Rock Mechanics III (LAB 1.0 and LEC 2.0)
Advanced methods for designing rock excavation to resolve geotechnical and ground control problems. Topics including stress analysis, rock properties, instrumentation, pillar design, roof span design, rock reinforcement, surface subsidence, rock burst, and slope stability. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisites: Mi Eng 4823 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5912 Advanced Mine Power And Drainage (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced methods for evaluating electric power requirements and distribution mining geometries; Design and evaluation of mine drainage systems based on power requirements, layouts efficiency, hydraulic gradients, water-bearing formations; Risk evaluation of emergency power failures and mine flooding. Research paper or project required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4912 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5913 Advanced Computer Aided Mine Design (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Project-based mine planning and design course. Engineering design process applied to computer-aided mine planning and design. Mine layouts, production planning, and materials scheduling optimization. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

MIN ENG 5922 Advanced Tunneling & Underground Construction Techniques (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
Advanced topics in mechanical and conventional excavation techniques in underground tunneling and construction. Topics include tunneling layouts design, equipment and performance modeling, ground control systems including support, drainage, and structural integrity. Construction specifications, advance rate and contractual and cost estimation. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. (Co-listed with Exp Eng 5922).

MIN ENG 5932 Advanced Undergraduate Mining Methods (LEC 3.0)
Advanced methods for designing, planning, developing and operating economic and efficient underground mining systems. Systems include mass mining methods, room and pillar, longwall, cut and fill with equipment, ventilation and drainage control interface. Research paper or design project required. Prerequisite: Mi Eng 4932 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 5933 Advanced Surface Mining Methods (LEC 3.0)
Advanced topics in surface mine planning, methods and equipment acquisition, and deployment in surface mining operations. Strategic and tactical mine planning with focus on efficiency, safety, environmental standards and economics. It will also focus on fleet management with emphasis on repair, rebuild and replacement for higher availabilities, utilization and production output. Students will complete a research paper or project report. Prerequisites: Min Eng 4933 or Consent of Instructor.

MIN ENG 6000 Special Problems (IND 0.0-6.0)
Problems or readings on specific subjects or projects in the department. Consent of instructor required.

MIN ENG 6001 Special Topics (LAB 0.0 and LEC 0.0)
This course is designed to give the department an opportunity to test a new course. Variable title.

MIN ENG 6010 Seminar (RSD 1.0)
Discussion of current topics.
MIN ENG 6040 Oral Examination (IND 0.0)
After completion of all other program requirements, oral examinations for on-campus M.S./Ph.D. students may be processed during intersession. Off-campus M.S. students must be enrolled in oral examination and must have paid an oral examination fee at the time of the defense/comprehensive examination (oral/ written). All other students must enroll for credit commensurate with uses made of facilities and/or faculties. In no case shall this be for less than three (3) semester hours for resident students.

MIN ENG 6050 Continuous Registration (IND 1.0)
Doctoral candidates who have completed all requirements for the degree except the dissertation, and are away from the campus must continue to enroll for at least one hour of credit each registration period until the degree is completed. Failure to do so may invalidate the candidacy. Billing will be automatic as will registration upon payment.

MIN ENG 6080 Graduate Project (IND 3.0)
Advanced engineering design, experimentation, evaluation and assessment leading to the preparation of a project report. For practicing professionals, this project could be based on an actual industry problem. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing.

MIN ENG 6085 Internship (IND 0.0-15)
Students working toward a doctor of engineering degree will select, with the advice of their committees, appropriate problems for preparation of a dissertation. The problem selected and internship plan must conform to the purpose of providing a high level engineering experience consistent with the intent of the doctor of engineering degree.

MIN ENG 6099 Research (IND 0.0-15)
Investigations of an advanced nature leading to the preparation of a thesis or dissertation. Consent of instructor required.

MIN ENG 6132 Advanced Mine Health And Safety Design (LEC 3.0)
Principles of design of mining operations with emphasis on the health and safety of the worker. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

MIN ENG 6133 Mine Atmospheric Control II (LEC 3.0)
Climatic measurements and temperature precalculations, emergency plans for fan failures and mine fires, mine air contaminants, mine noises, mine dust, refrigeration and cooling plant layout, radiation control. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4113.

MIN ENG 6432 Advanced Mineral Engineering Design II (LEC 1.0 and LAB 2.0)
Incorporation of principles developed in Min Eng 6132 in advanced design projects for mineral plants and systems, with emphasis on environmental protection, health, and safety. Prerequisite: Min Eng 6132.

MIN ENG 6522 Mining Property Feasibility Studies And Evaluation Procedure (LEC 2.0 and LAB 1.0)
A systematic phased approach is presented, designed to increase the level of confidence and accuracy of estimates, moving from exploration through to a “bankable” study. Liability, ethics, resource/reserves, political/social/investment risk, economic parameters, and due diligence are discussed. Prerequisite: Min Eng 3512 or Geology 3511 or Min Eng 4742 or Geophys 3251.

MIN ENG 6532 Mine Management II (LEC 3.0)
The course covers advanced concepts in managing mine operations. Topics to be covered include TQM, statistical process control, benchmarking, KPI, standards and standardization, ISO 9000: Quality Control, ISO 14000: Environmental systems, OHSAS 18000. Management systems, SA8000, Social Accountability and others. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

MIN ENG 6622 Environmental Controls For Blasting (LAB 1.0 and LEC 2.0)
Advanced blast mechanics; overbreak control including comprehensive coverage of perimeter and smoothwall specialist blasting techniques and geotechnical factors affecting blast vibration, limits analysis monitoring and control; air blast control including limits, monitoring and atmospheric and topographic effects. Prerequisites: Min Eng 5612, Successful background check. (Co-listed with Exp Eng 6412).

MIN ENG 6632 Theory Of High Explosives (LEC 3.0)
Study of the application of chemical thermodynamics and the hydrodynamic theory to determine the properties of high explosives; application of detonation theory to steady-state detonations in real explosives; application of the above to the blasting action of explosives. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. (Co-listed with Exp Eng 6212).

MIN ENG 6712 Managing Social and Environmental Risks in Mining (Intro to Responsible Mining) (LEC 3.0)
This course is an introduction to responsible mining. It focuses on industry and NGO programs around sustainability and reporting in mining, financial community response, community of interest engagement and participation, and safety and crisis response and management. Prerequisites: Min Eng 4742 or Min Eng 5742.

MIN ENG 6735 Sustainability In Mining (LEC 3.0)
Sustainability defined: social, economic and environmental impacts. Mining as sustainable development interventions. Mine planning for sustainability, sustainability assessment and reporting, sustainable mine closure and post-mining land use. Case studies. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4742.

MIN ENG 6842 Advanced Rock Mechanics (LEC 3.0)
Advanced topics in static and dynamic rock mechanics; elasticity theory, failure theories and fracture mechanics applied to rock; stress wave propagation and dynamic elastic constants; rock mass classification methods for support design; pillar design in coal and metal mines; introduction to numerical models. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4823 or Civ Eng 3715.

MIN ENG 6843 Rock Mechanics IV (LEC 3.0)
Advanced topics in dynamic rock mechanics. Stress wave propagation in the earth, dynamic elastic constants in isotropic and anisotropic rock, Hopkinson bar impact analysis, spallation and radial fracturing caused by stress pulses, shock wave generation in rock by explosives, shock wave propagation and effects. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4823 or Civ Eng 3715.

MIN ENG 6912 Simulation of Mining Systems (LEC 3.0)
Overview of stochastic simulation. Model formulation using general purpose process simulation software. Model verification and validation. Simulation experimentation. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or Stat 5643.

MIN ENG 6922 Optimization Applications In Mining I (LEC 3.0)
Mining applications of deterministic optimization techniques are covered, including linear, integer, mixed-integer, dynamic, unconstrained and constrained nonlinear, and heuristic programming. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent.

MIN ENG 6923 Geostatistics (LEC 3.0)
Definition of geostatistical data; theory of random fields; autocorrelation and measures of spatial variability including semivariograms, variograms and covariance functions; and spatial prediction and validation. Case studies in mineral resource estimation and environmental pollutant prediction will be presented. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
MIN ENG 6932 Advanced Mining Systems (LEC 3.0)
Principles of design for the development and production of hard rock mineral deposits that require integrated surface and underground mining methods. Cost considerations leading to optimization. Terminal feasibility report required. Prerequisites: Min Eng 4932 and Min Eng 4933.

MIN ENG 6935 Underground Mine Design (LEC 3.0)
This course will focus on the determinants of underground mine design, geomechanical mine design for underground mining; mine optimization; mine environmental systems; and underground mine design and optimization. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4932 or equivalent.

MIN ENG 6936 Surface Mine Design (LEC 3.0)
This course will focus on the determinants of surface mine design, geomechanical and geometrical mine design for open pit and strip mining; mine layouts optimization; mine environmental systems; and research directions in surface mine design and optimization. Prerequisite: Min Eng 4933 or equivalent.

MIN ENG 6992 Research Methods (LEC 3.0)
Foundations, dimensions, and methods for designing and investigating research problems. Focus on fundamentals and applied research, research methods, literature review, experimental design and experimentation, dissertation composition, concepts of originality and intellectual property. Prerequisites: PhD students only. (Co-listed with Exp Eng 6292).