

Thomas Cobb

Chemical Engineering
Polymer Specialization

Hometown: Olmsted Falls, Ohio

Professional/Student Organizations:

- AiChE
- Akronauts Rocket Design Team

Co-op/Research Experience

- OMNOVA Solutions Inc.



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

Before I visited, I never thought Akron was the place for me. I, so to speak, judged a university by old reputations instilled by an older generation of my family. Then, I did more research and visited Akron. It was love at first sight. I was given a tour of The College of Engineering by one of the heads of an engineering department, which has since left a lasting impression. I loved the campus and The College of Engineering is one of the best around, especially with co-op program.

Why did you choose Chemical Engineering as your major?

Going into high school, I had no idea what I liked or what I wanted to do. I knew I loved math and science, so engineering seemed like a perfect fit. Once in high school, I found chemistry was challenging yet gratifying, leading me with a strong desire to give it a shot. In college, I found that I was surrounded by like-minded students in my first year ChemE course, and knew immediately that I found my niche. To this day, some of my best friends are chemical engineers.

What advice would you give to an incoming engineering student?

Take time to do things outside of the classroom. Employers want to see good grades, but the best engineers are forged in outside activities, specifically design teams. At UA, we have dozens of different design teams. I strongly urge you to join one, as you will be able to look great to employers, have fun, build amazing projects, and make lifelong friends along the way.

What resources were provided at the University of Akron to help you succeed as an engineering student?

UA has provided me with different projects that provide real world applications, the opportunity to work with students of all different majors and years, and to build rockets, all the while having fun. The College of Engineering has prepared me for even more than just being an engineering student: it prepared me for life outside of school. I can honestly say I would only be half the engineer I currently am without the constant and dedicated help from The College of Engineering specifically, to not only see me succeed in school, but my career as well.