

Thomas Wheeler

Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Professional/Student Organizations:

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- National Association of Rocketry
- Club Golf at The University of Akron
- The University of Akron Akronauts Rocket Design Team

Co-op/Research Experience

- Bridgestone Americas



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

During the college application process, I was looking at engineering programs all over the country. In that search, I came across The University of Akron. Since it was a day trip from home, my parents and I came out for an Honors Engineering Visit Day. By the end of the visit, I found that Akron was everything I was looking for. It had a large school feel while providing the individual attention of a smaller one, highly competitive engineering design teams, modern facilities across campus, highly ranked engineering programs at an affordable cost, and unmatched job placement programs/career services. It was impossible to say no.

Why did you choose Mechanical Engineering as your major?

I chose Mechanical Engineering because from a young age I knew it was exactly what I wanted to do. I always had an affinity towards math and science in school, and I had a passion for planes and the space programs growing up. Once I got to middle school and began taking shop classes, I had a teacher begin teaching me computer aided design during free periods. It then occurred to me that I could combine my skillsets and passions and go into engineering.

What is one of your most memorable moments here at the University of Akron's College of Engineering?

My most memorable moment was my first design team competition in New Mexico. The rocket design team has brought some of my best friends into my life and allowed me to gain hands-on engineering knowledge all while being able to represent The University of Akron College of Engineering. That week of competition was probably the most challenging week, both mentally and physically, of my college experience. There were late nights of last minute redesign and assembly to solve problems posed to us by the judges so that we could compete. It made for a fantastic challenge that allowed me to learn so much while forming unbreakable bonds with a few of my teammates on a cross-country trip. That experience is something I will always be able to look back on very fondly.