Engineering & Information Technology

MU Engineering & Information Technology
University of Missouri

2023-2024 Annual Report
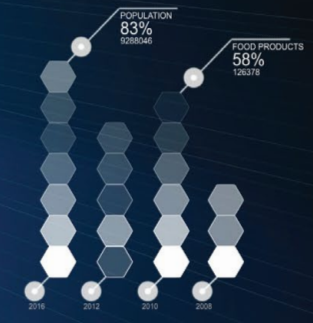
This is an exciting time for the Department of Engineering and Information Technology as we continue to grow and enhance our commitment to student success. This fall, we launched a new undergraduate degree in engineering technology, designed to provide students with hands-on experience in applying engineering principles to solve real-world challenges. This program will empower graduates with expertise in cutting-edge technologies, preparing them to lead in an ever-evolving industry.

We are also excited to celebrate accreditation of the information technology program by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc. The accreditation is retroactively effective as of October 1, 2021.

To support these programs, we recently received a $3.46 million MoExcels grant to establish a new Center of Excellence for Engineering and Information Technology, scheduled to open next fall. The center will help us address workforce needs and create new ways for Missourians to gain an engineering education.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support. Your involvement continues to play a vital role in helping us shape the future. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about all the great things happening at EIT.

Hani Salim
Chair, Professor
Engineering & Information Technology

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MIZZOU
ENGINEERING

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Step inside Mizzou Engineering with our 360° virtual tour of our classrooms, labs and student spaces. Learn about our degrees, extracurricular opportunities and support resources from the comfort of your home.

Show Me
THE FACULTY

Hani Salim
Chair, James C. Dowell Fellow, Professor, P.E.

Fang Wang
Associate Teaching Professor, Director of Undergraduate Students, Director of CREXR Lab

Kristofferson Culmer
Assistant Teaching Professor, Director of Autonomous Systems Laboratory

Chip Gubera
Associate Teaching Professor

Jiaming Jiang
Assistant Teaching Professor

Mike Klote
Associate Teaching Professor

Gillian Maurer
Associate Teaching Professor

Scottie Murrell
Assistant Teaching Professor

Dale Musser
Associate Teaching Professor

Michael Tompkins
Assistant Teaching Professor

Research
HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Engineering and Information Technology received a ***$3.46 million grant*** from the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development to establish the new Center of Excellence for Engineering and Information Technology (CEEIT). The funding comes from the MoExcels Workforce Initiative, which facilitates the development and expansion of training programs as well as initiatives to increase educational attainment. CEEIT, scheduled to open in fall 2025, will help address workforce needs by preparing students for manufacturing, engineering and information technology roles.

Mizzou launched a ***new undergraduate degree in engineering technology*** in the fall of 2024 that focuses on the practical application of engineering principles. Emphasizing hands-on learning, students will gain real-world skills in state-of-the-art labs to meet the demand for graduates with this level of technological expertise. The program will offer two tracks, manufacturing and mechatronics, to prepare graduates for diverse industries including construction, government and manufacturing.

The ***information technology degree program received accreditation by ABET***, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. The accreditation is retroactively effective as of October 1, 2021. IT is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, https://abet.org, under the commission's General Criteria and Program Criteria for the criteria listed.
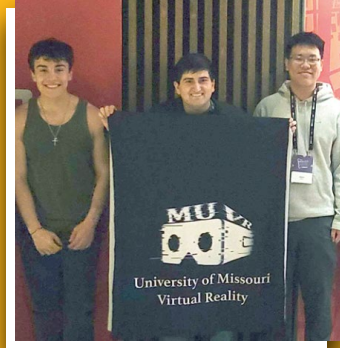

Fang Wang and collaborators are enhancing hands-on clean-room semiconductor education by introducing Extended Reality (ER) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies into the classroom and lab environments. The work is funded by a nearly $400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and is a partnership between the College of Engineering and College of Education and Human Development.
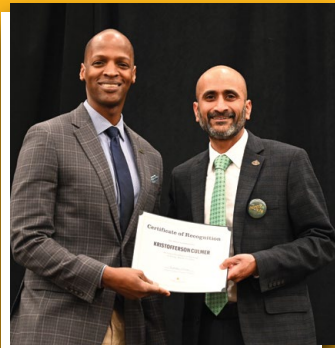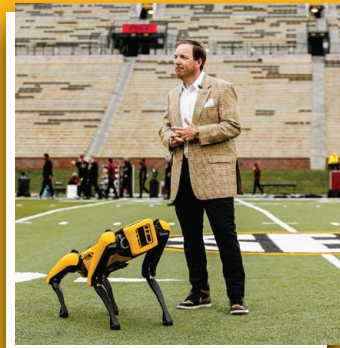
EIT
ACCOLADES

Hani Salim was named the chair of the Department of Engineering and Information Technology. He served as the interim chair since the department was established in 2022 and has since built on previous efforts to strengthen the program, including preparing for IT's accreditation review and launching the new engineering technology degree program. Salim also met with IT alumni and industry partners to help guide and shape the program to ensure it meets the needs of today's workforce.

Mizzou Engineering had multiple teams compete at MIT Reality Hack, an annual competition aimed at educating, empowering and enabling people to be part of the XR industry. Projects included WEDGE, a multi-faceted XR controller that allows those outside the VR setting to receive information within the simulation, and EmpoweredAR, which leverages the ability of XREAL eyewear to generate meshes of the physical environment to provide wearers an auditory map.

Kristofferson Culmer won the Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award at Mizzou Engineering's annual awards banquet. Culmer was recognized for fostering dynamic and inclusive environments and being a tireless advocate of student success. He is the director of the Autonomous Systems Lab.

Spot, the robotic dog from Boston Dynamics, appeared on ESPN's GameDay while Mizzou football head coach Eliah Drinkwitz conducted an interview on live TV. The Department of Engineering and Information Technology has four Spots available that give students hands-on experience working with cutting-edge technology.

Student
SUCCESS

Nathan Duchinsky completed an IT cloud services internship as part of the IT infrastructure team at Post Holdings, Inc. He researched the potential applications of AI, particularly Microsoft Copilot, across Post Holdings.

Erin Shawhan was an application development intern at Myers and Stauffer LC. She worked on a team of developers to build software to manage and streamline business operations, on both frontend and backend. She also implemented code changes and new features that improved the functionality and the visual user interface of applications.

Students in the **Motion Graphics and Visual Effects Design I** class worked with Vidwest Studios, a non-profit video media organization, to create social media graphics. They used Adobe AfterEffects to design and animate short clips that were featured on the organization's Instagram and Facebook accounts.

Austin Barr is raising awareness of the **University of Missouri's Virtual Reality Organization (MUVR)** across campus to open the club and the Collaborative Research Environments for Extended Reality (CREXR) Lab to students from all disciplines. These interdisciplinary interactions have helped engineers – including IT majors – develop new ideas on how to push technology further.

A senior **IT capstone group** built a degree audit website that was accessible and easy for students to use so they could better understand where they are in their degree and what steps to take next.

TigerHacks, Missouri's largest student-run hackathon, was hosted by the Mizzou Computing Association. The event featured select workshops led by IT students and faculty. Over 36 hours, student teams worked on innovative projects around the theme of Food and Agriculture, competing for a share of the $7,500 prize pool.