The purpose of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering Master of Science Program in Astronautical Engineering is to prepare students for work in the space sector of the aerospace industry, government research and development centers, and in commercial space operations and applications. Upon completion of the program,

- Students will demonstrate advanced understanding of the science and technology of space missions, rocketry, space vehicles and subsystems and the space environment.
- Students will be able to apply critical principles and practices pertinent to the Astronautical Engineering field in their employment practice.
- Students will be able to work in diverse global contexts and apply universally accepted and globally centric practices pertinent to Astronautical Engineering.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary engineering design principles and associated innovative practices relevant to spacecraft, rocketry, and space applications. Students will be able to implement these practices under guidance of Astronautical Engineering faculty members in preparation for employment in space and other industries.