The BEST Experience is a week-long residential program that gives high-school students a taste of what being an engineering student at UAH is all about. Students will attend engineering classes, perform hands-on experiments in engineering labs, work on project teams, live in the residence halls and eat at campus dining facilities.

The BEST Experience is designed to introduce students to engineering education in a fun and engaging way—much like a college freshman would experience.

The BEST Experience is a great way to “try” being an engineering student to see just how challenging and rewarding it can be!

“Other than having a fun time with the challenges and activities, this week was also a great opportunity to learn and explore UAH, more so than before I would love to come here when I graduate ”

- BEST 2016 Camper

Important Dates:
June 17-22nd:  Program Week
April 27th:  Priority deadline for applications and scholarships.
May 7th:  Notification of program placement and scholarship amount.
June 1st:  50% of fee is required.

After April 27th, applications and scholarship requests will be accepted given program space and available funds.

All program forms must be received with 50% deposit to reserve your spot in the program. Refunds will be given at the sole discretion of the program director.

Contact Information:
Dr. Jennifer English, Director
Mr. Jacob Kerstiens, Asst. Director
UAH College of Engineering
Center for Undergraduate Engineering Education
301 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35899
Phone: 256.824.6877
Fax: 256.824.7412
E-mail: engineering@uah.edu
URL: uah.edu/eng/summer-camps
Eligibility and Fees
All participants must meet the following requirements:
- Rising 11th and 12th grade student
- Should have a minimum 3.0/4.0 grade point average or B average
- Completed a statement of interest in engineering
- Have a letter of recommendation from a teacher/guidance counselor (or other adult if homeschooled)
- Completed all applications/forms/waivers

The program fee includes all meals, housing, books, and laboratory materials, and activity fees. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from the UAH campus.

Alabama residents: $425*
Non-Alabama residents: $625*

*Scholarships for up to 70% of the fee are available to qualified families with financial need.

Application, scholarship and other forms are available at www.uah.edu/eng/outreach

Expectation/Supervision
Students will be working with UAH engineering faculty and staff and current UAH engineering students for most activities. Professional engineers from the Huntsville area will give presentations and demonstrations throughout the week. Students will be monitored by UAH student counselors (male and female) in the evening. The Director will be available throughout the evening.

BEST participants are expected to follow all camp and UAH campus rules and directions from UAH faculty and staff. BEST participants can expect to be treated like young adults and given some of the same freedom afforded to college students. The BEST Experience Staff is here to ensure the safety of BEST participants and that everyone has a good time.

BEST participants will sign a behavior contract (see forms). Participants who willfully violate rules or engage in unsafe behavior may be sent home at their expense.

Sample Day
8:30am: Breakfast
9:15am: First class
10:25am: Second class
11:30am: Lunch & short meetings
1:00pm: Labs
4:30pm: Free time
6:00pm: Dinner
7:00pm: Student life, leadership activities, field trips, etc
9:00pm: Back to Residence Hall for homework, projects, etc

BEST Experience Highlights
- Spend a week on the UAH campus, living in the residence halls, eating at the UAH Café, and working in the labs.
- Attend engineering fundamentals classes that focus on the principles of design, build and test.
- Learn about a variety of engineering disciplines from aerospace to optical.
- Work in engineering laboratories on a variety of hands-on experiments.
- Meet engineering faculty, alumni, students, and engineers in the community.
- Tour local engineering companies and their facilities.
- Get career and job placement advice from UAH Career Services.

"It was better than space camp!!! I cannot wait to attend UAH as a student!"

- BEST 2015 Camper