AUBURN
Human Resources

Dir, Space Innovation

Job Description

JOB INFORMATION

Job Code	HU13
Job Description Title	Dir, Space Innovation
Pay Grade	DC10
Range Minimum	$249,290
33rd %	$299,150
Range Midpoint	$324,080
67th %	$349,010
Range Maximum	$398,870
Exemption Status	Exempt
Organizational use restricted to the following divisions	170 Senior VP Research Econ Development
Approved Date:	8/7/2025 1:59:13 PM

JOB FAMILY AND FUNCTION

Job Family:	Research
Job Function:	Research Development

JOB SUMMARY

The Director of Space Innovation leads strategic planning and interdisciplinary research initiatives that advance space development and operations, positioning the University as a key contributor to the national space agenda. By aligning efforts with emerging priorities and fostering innovation across sectors, this role expands the University's impact on the space economy and strengthens its reputation as a leader in space research and technology.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Strategic Vision & Leadership: Defines and drives the strategic vision for space innovation applied research, ensuring alignment with the mission and priorities of the Applied Research Institute (ARI) and its Executive Director. Leads the development and execution of high-impact initiatives that position the University at the forefront of space-related applied research.
- Team Management & Talent Development: Oversees and supervises space innovation personnel, fostering a culture of excellence through professional development, performance evaluations, and regular goal-oriented engagement. Builds a high-performing team that delivers on ARI's objectives and adapts to evolving research priorities.
- Growth Strategy & Technical Roadmap: Develops and sustains a comprehensive growth strategy and technical roadmap for space innovation, targeting emerging sponsor needs and technology gaps. Champions the development of cutting-edge research proposals that secure funding and advance the University's reputation in space innovation.
- Stakeholder Engagement & Proposal Development: Serves as a primary liaison with U.S. Government agencies, industry partners, academic faculty, staff, and students to promote collaborative applied research. Leads the creation of competitive proposals, detailed budgets, project schedules, and progress reports; communicates outcomes effectively to internal and external stakeholders.
- Defense & Aerospace Partnership Development: Designs and executes strategies to position the University as a trusted partner for non-traditional defense and aerospace companies. Provides access to critical capabilities for technology maturation, including testing, evaluation, and qualification infrastructure.
- Academic Integration & Instruction: Advises university leadership and faculty on the evolution of space-focused academic programs, contributing to curriculum development and instruction within the space systems certificate program. Bridges research and education to cultivate the next generation of space innovation leaders.
- Program Development & Cross-Campus Impact: Leads the conceptualization and planning of a university-wide space program in space research and education, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and long-term institutional impact.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Technical Reporting & Strategic Planning: Prepares comprehensive technical reports to support both short-term initiatives and long-range strategic planning efforts, ensuring informed decision-making and sustained progress.

The responsibilities listed above show the typical duties for jobs in this classification. Actual tasks may differ depending on the department's needs. Other similar duties may be assigned with discretion of the supervisor. Not every duty will apply to every position, and the amount of time spent on each task can change based on department needs.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisory Responsibility	Full supervisory responsibility for other employees is a major responsibility and includes training, evaluating, and making or recommending pay, promotion or other employment decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible, an individual must meet all minimum requirements which are representative of the knowledge, skills, and abilities typically expected to be successful in the role. For education and experience, minimum requirements are listed on the top row below. If substitutions are available, they will be listed on subsequent rows and may only to be utilized when the candidate does not meet the minimum requirements.

MINIMUM EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Education Level	Focus of Education		Years of Experience	Focus of Experience	
Bachelor's Degree	Engineering, Science, or closely related field	and	16 years of	Experience conducting space-related engineering and research projects, including research and development and program management, within both government and industry settings. Experience in leading teams of scientists and research associates to achieve technical and strategic objectives is strongly desired.	Or
Master's Degree	Engineering, Science, or closely related field	and	12 years of	Experience conducting space-related engineering and research projects, including research and development and program management, within both government and industry settings. Experience in leading teams of scientists and research associates to achieve technical and strategic objectives is strongly desired.	Or
PhD	Engineering, Science, or closely related field	and	8 years of	Experience conducting space-related engineering and research projects, including research and development and program management, within both government and industry settings. Experience in leading teams of scientists and research associates to achieve technical and strategic objectives is strongly desired.	

MINIMUM KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES

Knowledge of space innovation trends and emerging technologies in applied research	
Knowledge of sponsor landscapes, funding mechanisms, and technology gaps in space innovation	
Skill in building and leading multidisciplinary teams of scientists, engineers, and researchers	
Skill in developing technical roadmaps and long-term growth strategies	
Ability to align research initiatives with mission and executive priorities	

MINIMUM KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES

Ability to lead high-impact initiatives that elevate reputation and influence	
Ability to foster a culture of excellence, collaboration, and continuous improvement	
Ability to mentor and develop talent in technical and research roles	
Ability to identify and pursue strategic research opportunities aligned with sponsor needs	
Ability to lead proposal development for competitive research funding	

MINIMUM LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Licenses/Certifications	Licenses/Certification Details	Time Frame	Required/ Desired	
	Department of Defense (DOD) Security Clearance	Upon Hire	Required	

PHYSICAL DEMANDS & WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands Category:	Labor & Trades

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Physical Demand	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Constantly	Weight
Standing			X			
Walking			X			
Sitting				X		
Lifting		X				10 lbs
Climbing			X			
Stooping/ Kneeling/ Crouching		X				
Reaching			X			
Talking				X		
Hearing					X	
Repetitive Motions			X			
Eye/Hand/Foot Coordination			X			

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Working Condition	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Constantly
Extreme temperatures		X			
Hazards		X			
Wet and/or humid		X			
Noise			X		
Chemical		X			
Dusts		X			
Poor ventilation		X			

Vision Requirements:

Ability to see information in print and/or electronically and distinguish colors.

Travel Requirements:

In-State; Domestic