STEAM PROGRAMS

Are you a maverick behind a computer? Has there been a periodic table of elements poster on your bedroom wall for years? While your classmates gasped, did you jump at the chance to perform dissections in your high school biology labs? If so, you may just have what it takes to succeed in one of today’s fastest-growing industries.

Luckily for you, Tiffin University (TU) is a leader in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), and our professors are dedicated to staying up-to-date on the skills today’s STEAM employers want new hires to have. Our faculty pride themselves on mentoring their students in ways that prepare them to meet the demands of these jobs as soon as they graduate. So if you have a knack for numbers or an itch to experiment, strap on those goggles and come roar with TU, but don’t worry; our labs can ventilate dragon’s breath.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in STEM-based jobs is expected to grow by 8% between the years 2019-2029. This increase is happening at more than twice the speed of non-STEM work (ID Tech, 2021). It is predicted that by 2025, the job market will be overrun with more than 3.5 million STEM vacancies (ID Tech, 2021), meaning people with experience in these realms will be very desirable to employers. Of the 1.9 million undergraduate degrees awarded during the 2018-2019 academic year, almost 413,000 (21.7%) of them were in STEM (Statista, 2021).

TU offers many outstanding undergraduate programs in these areas, as we recognize that many modern-day jobs require skill in both the practical and the creative. The degrees offered through our STEAM program are:

- Applied Health Science
- Chemistry
- Commercial Music – Production & Engineering
- Computer Science - Network & Systems Administration
- Computer Science - Software Development
- Computer Science - Video Game Design
- Computer Science - Web Design
- Criminalistics
- Cyber Security
- Digital Forensics
- Digital Media & Design
- Exercise Science
- Forensic Science
- Health, Fitness & Wellness
- Healthcare Administration
- Neuroscience
- Nursing

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Moreover, TU’s newest building on campus is our Center for Science and Technology (referred to as the STEAM building), an 18,100 square foot facility dedicated to the teaching of these subjects. The Center comes equipped with state-of-the-art chemistry labs, the Jeanne and Larry Adelsperger Exercise Science Center as well as ample space for students to study and relax between classes, including the Mercy Health Atrium.

Students enrolled in our STEAM programs will have access to several pieces of cutting-edge technology, such as the gas chromatography–mass spectrometry machine, the same device used in airport security to detect dangerous items or substances. The Center also has a DNA sequential analyzer and a “Bod Pod” (to analyze the impact of physical activity on the human body) at its disposal.

The Dragon Family is particularly proud of one piece of scientific equipment in the Center. The anatomage table, also known as a virtual autopsy machine, will let students learn digitally about the inner workings of the human body. TU is one of the few schools in the nation to have access to such a machine and is the only academic institution that will allow its undergraduate students full, supervised access to it, a privilege normally reserved for graduate students and faculty. The device looks much like a traditional autopsy table, featuring a six-foot slab atop a stand. The main difference is that its surface is actually a touchscreen computer with pre-downloaded images of real human bodies. Students will be able to interact with the onscreen depictions and perform all imaginable surgical tasks. They will be able to examine each corpse down to the cellular level and will choose from several pre-downloaded likenesses of real people who donated their bodies to post-mortem scientific study. The table gets much use from our students, as it is handy to those studying criminal justice, chemistry, exercise science, health and wellness, neuroscience, biology, forensics and several other areas. The applications for this wonderful technology are endless.

For those interested in pursuing any of these degrees, the outlook is good. According to a 2021 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage of STEM occupations in 2020 was $89,700. Additionally, the average annual salary for entry-level STEM jobs requiring a bachelor’s degree or higher is $66,123, whereas that of non-STEM positions is $52,299 (Burning Glass Technologies, 2021).