UD-CCM's Multidisciplinary Research Philosophy

The University of Delaware's Center for Composite Materials (UD-CCM), located in Newark Delaware, has been an international leader in composites science and engineering research, education, and technology transfer for 41 years. Founded in 1974, UD-CCM was one of the first centers at the university and is currently one of seven research centers in the College of Engineering. UD-CCM's multidisciplinary research philosophy encourages faculty, post-docs, professionals, and students from various science and engineering disciplines to work in a collaborative environment to address the needs of our sponsors.

Six research thrust areas describe Center interdisciplinary activities in composite materials:



Materials & Synthesis:

This thrust addresses identification, creation, and tailoring of existing and

next-generation materials through the control of microstructure at multiple scales, ranging from molecular to macro-scale. Advanced fibers, new polymers, sizings and nanomaterials are primary areas of interest.

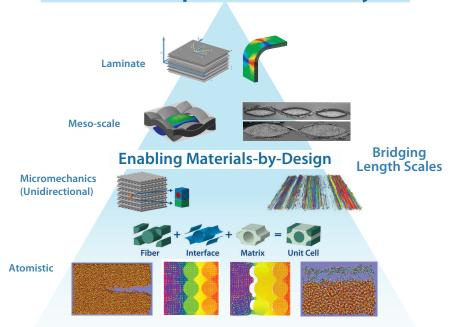


Mechanics & Design:

Work in this area focuses on understanding microstructure-property

relationships to enable model-based design and optimization of materials and structures at multiple scales. It encompasses mechanics of materials at multiple scales, numerical methods, CAD/CAM, re-engineering, and new software design tools.

Engineered Solutions for the Composite Industry





Processing Science:

Development of new composite manufacturing processes, understanding

processing effects on microstructureproperty relationship, models and simulations for virtual manufacturing for quality and affordability are the major thrusts in this area.



Performance:

In this thrust, research focuses on state-of-the-art testing and evaluation of a

wide range of material properties, including static and dynamic thermomechanical properties, adhesion at multiple-scales, electromagnetic properties etc., on a wide range of structures from the nanoscale to full-scale prototypes. The work also addresses the development of new test procedures and equipment.



Sensing & Control:

Work in this area is aimed at developing sensors and devices to monitor

composites from manufacturing to the end of service life. It also comprises development and validation of process control schemes using simulations and manufacturing workcells.



Multifunctional Materials:

This thrust focuses on developing materials to accomplish multiple

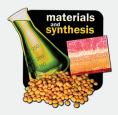
performance objectives in a single material system. It encompasses traditional composite materials that provide high specific stiffness, strength, and incorporates other functions such as energy absorption, electromagnetic properties, sensing and actuation, power harvesting and repair.

UD-CCM attracts faculty and students from the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Materials Science & Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering, as well as from the Departments of Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, and Chemistry & Biochemistry in the College of Arts & Science and from the Accounting & MIS Department within the College of Business & Economics.

Our researchers conduct world-class research in each of these areas but also work in research teams at the interface between these disciplines to design and optimize new materials and processes that deliver performance and affordability. Our unique facilities enable our research teams to carry forward research ideas from basic science, through design and manufacturing to prototyping of fully functional affordable systems. Our multidisciplinary research philosophy captured in the six thrust areas provides the necessary scientific foundation to carry forward basic research, through its maturation phase into technology transition opportunities with our sponsors.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Research at CCM is divided into Six Technology Thrust Areas



- Rheology
- Cure Kinetics
- : Glass Transition
- : Compositional Analysis



- Modeling & Simulation
- : High Strain Rate & Dynamic Testing
- Micro-Mechanics
- : CAD/CAE/CAM



- : Electro-Magnetic Structures
- Nano Composites
- : CNT-based Composites
- Shear Thickening Fluids



- **∷** VARTM
- **∷** RTM
- : Induction
- : Thermo Forming
- **Pultrusion**
- Prepreg



- Mechanical Testing

- : Environmental Testing
- : Interphase Characterization
- Acoustic Properties



- : Liquid Composite Molding Control
- : Time Domain Reflectometry Flow & Cure
- : CNT-based Health Monitoring
- : Ultrasound Inspection
- **:** Vibration Based Inspection