

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. Department of Transportation

Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

**Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering – Ann Arbor, MI**

The Secretary of Transportation designates the University of Michigan's Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (NAME) as a 2026 Center of Excellence for its critical role in training the workforce that designs and builds the domestic maritime fleet. As the Nation's largest standalone naval engineering department, NAME provides clear academic and professional pathways into commercial ship design, marine transportation, and naval defense.

**Operational Footprint & Assets**

NAME combines Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology accredited degrees with applied engineering laboratory systems to ensure technical readiness.

- **The BRIDGE Initiative:** A fully funded, Navy-aligned master's degree track designed to transition domestic engineers from varied backgrounds into core naval engineering careers.
- **Applied Design Platforms:** Integrates coursework utilizing finite element analysis, computational fluid dynamics and CAD software for full-scale vessel contract modeling.
- **Marine Autonomous Tracks:** Operates interdisciplinary labs specializing in marine robotics, autonomous underwater vehicle routing, and digital control systems.

**Workforce & Regional Impact**

The department serves as a primary workforce engine, placing engineering graduates directly into shipyard management and Federal maritime organizations.

- **Elite Placement:** Sustains a 99 percent employment rate within six months of graduation, with average starting salaries of \$82,625 for undergraduates and \$98,480 for graduate students.
- **Shipyard Alliances:** Maintains collaborative manufacturing and design MOUs with premier marine builders, including the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (officially General Dynamics), Huntington Ingalls, and Fincantieri.
- **Domestic Output:** Combines a 95–97 percent cohort completion index with an undergraduate student base that is 99 percent domestic, maximizing national defense investments.

**Strategic Outlook**

NAME is sharing its naval engineering curriculum with peer universities and maritime academies to expand training nationwide. In a national crisis, the department can immediately double its undergraduate capacity. This surge creates a rapid pipeline of mechanical, structural, and hydrodynamics experts needed to keep domestic shipyards, vessel repairs, and logistics terminals operating.