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For over a century, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been the leading academic institution in rail transportation engineering in North America. The Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC) at Illinois continues this tradition through its world-class academic and research programs in rail engineering and transport.

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Building on a Legacy
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RailTEC: A Dynamic Hub

- RailTEC is home to a strong group of faculty and students from all branches of engineering, systems analysis, and transportation economics engaged in leading-edge interdisciplinary railway research and education activities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

RailTEC Education Program

- Most extensive rail transportation engineering academic curriculum in North America.
- BS, MS and PhD degree programs in civil engineering with a railway transportation focus.
- Distance education program offers working professionals the opportunity to earn an MS degree or Railroad Certificate via online rail-focused courses. RailTEC also provides continuing education opportunities for the rail community.
- Railway Engineering Short Courses for industry professionals held on campus each summer.
- W.W. Hay Railroad Seminar Series, hosted on campus bi-weekly and broadcast online.
- Organizer and host of the annual Railroad Environmental Conference and the bi-annual Crosstie & Fastening System Symposium.

RailTEC Research Program

- Deep institutional knowledge and understanding of rail freight, passenger, and transit engineering and operations, combined with cutting-edge expertise in newly emerging disciplines critical to advancing railway safety, efficiency, and reliability.
- Broad range of research on railroad track, bridge and infrastructure engineering; safety and risk; rolling stock, energy efficiency and environment; operations research, planning and design; signaling and control; economics and advanced rail transportation technologies.
- Rich history of rail transportation research includes Talbot, Hay, Schmidt and others who have made enduring contributions to the rail transport field.
- Grainger Engineering Library is home of the W.W. Hay Railroad Engineering Collection, the largest collection of technical railroad engineering books, reports and journals in North America.
- Long-term partnership with the Association of American Railroads and their members’ research program in rail safety, reliability, and efficiency.

Collaboration with Industry

- Extensive ties with leading freight and passenger railroads, rail technology suppliers, trade associations, government agencies, the railroad academic community, and engineering design, construction and management firms.
- Endowments from CN Railway and the George Krambles Transportation Scholarship Fund and ongoing industry support from CN, BNSF Railway, Hanson Professional Services, Union Pacific and others sustains and strengthens RailTEC’s educational and research mission.
- Research support from AAR, RSI, USDOT FRA, USDOT FTA, TRB, rail customers, railroads and railway supply companies.
- Rail industry internships and field visits provide firsthand experience and knowledge to students considering careers in rail transportation.

RailTEC recognizes the increasing importance of sustainable rail transportation to the economy and society, and is dedicated to further grow and develop its teaching and research activities in support of the nation’s need for talented young professionals and new technologies for this vital transportation mode.