Design Build Fly (DBF) designs and manufactures remote-controlled aircraft to compete in the annual AIAA DBF Competition. Every year, a new design challenge introduces a variety of engineering problems for us to solve in order to build a successful and competitive aircraft. No prior experience is required and all UCLA students are welcome to join!

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SUB-TEAMS YOU CAN JOIN!

AERODYNAMICS

The Aerodynamics team determines the basic dimensions of the aircraft, and makes decisions about all aspects of the wing and tail sections. Additionally, aerodynamic effects of anything carried outside the aircraft body (i.e. a banner or footballs) are investigated to determine their effect on aircraft performance.

COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN

The Computer-Aided Design (CAD) team generates three-dimensional drawings using computer software that helps us design and manufacture our plane! In many cases, these computer drawings are directly used to 3D-print or laser-cut aircraft parts.

MANUFACTURING

The Manufacturing team is responsible for building the entire aircraft from the ground up. We do parts fabrication and assembly based on designs from the CAD team using carbon fiber, 3D printed plastics, wood, and a variety of other materials.

STRUCTURES

The Structures team is involved with designing and testing structural components of the airplane. We determine structural capabilities through calculations and computer modeling.

PROPULSION & ELECTRONICS

The Propulsion & Electronics team is responsible for selecting and testing the electric propulsion system components for the aircraft. We also set up any other electronics for the aircraft, such as servo actuators and the receiver/transmitter.