

## [Victor Glover becomes 1st Black astronaut to arrive at space station for long-term stay](#)



On Nov. 15, 2020, Glover left Earth as pilot and second-in-command of Crew-1, SpaceX's first contracted, fully operational astronaut mission to the ISS. Upon his arrival at the space station on Nov. 17, 2020, he became the first Black astronaut to stay for an extended mission in orbit.

By [Vicky Stein](#) published April 27, 2021      Victor J. Glover, Jr. is a NASA astronaut and Naval Aviator. In his first spaceflight mission, he served as the pilot on the Crew-1 flight of SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule, which launched on Nov. 15, 2020. Crew-1 was the first operational commercial crewed mission to the International Space Station and the second such flight overall after SpaceX's Demo-2 test mission, which launched in May 2020.

On Crew-1, Glover became the 15th Black astronaut in space and the first Black astronaut to stay for an extended period on the ISS, where he is expected to spend nearly six months in orbit as part of Expedition 64.RS

Glover was born in Pomona, California, according to his [NASA biography](#). In 1994, he graduated from Ontario High School in Ontario, California, continuing his education by pursuing an engineering degree at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, from which he graduated in 1999.

Earning his "wings of gold" as a commissioned officer in the Navy in 2001, Glover piloted aircraft in the U.S., Italy, Japan and the Middle East. According to NASA, Glover completed 3,000 flight hours in more than 40 different aircraft, as well as over 400 landings on aircraft carriers. He also participated in 24 combat missions.

Between 2007 and 2010, he earned three master's degrees from three different institutions: a Master of Science in Flight Test Engineering from Air University at Edwards Air Force Base in California; a Master of Science in Systems Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California; and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science at Air University in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 2012, Glover was selected for the Legislative Fellowship, a year-long full-time assignment to the office of a member of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Senate. During his time as a Legislative Fellow, Glover was chosen to become a NASA astronaut.

Glover was selected in 2013 as one of eight members of the [21st NASA astronaut class](#), from an overall pool of more than 6,100 applicants. He completed [Astronaut Candidate Training](#) in 2015.