

## Helpful Suggestions

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Plan your workload carefully.

Register what is realistic in terms of the number of hours you plan to work and the number of units you take. Beginning a semester with a heavy course load then dropping some as the semester progresses doesn't work. It will effect all your grades. If you work 20 hours per week, 12 credit units is considered a heavy load.

Do not complete all the general education requirements first. It is better to integrate these with your required major courses. General education courses are important. As you gain more expertise, you can choose general education courses that will make you more valuable to a future employer.

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Importance of Mathematics and Physics.

Engineering is an applied science. The application tool for science is mathematics. Mathematics and physics provide the foundation for engineering studies. Grades of B or better will substantially increase your success rate in the upper division engineering courses. A mathematics minor is a worthwhile program for engineering students to consider. You will be better prepared for engineering courses and graduate school.

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Use your time wisely.

You probably developed time management strategies for high school, but the transition to a university may provide new challenges. Plan ahead. Some students find it valuable to make a detailed schedule, accounting for every hour, but be sure to include time for rest, relaxation, and entertainment! It is important to never miss a class. Cutting one class to prepare for an exam in another class is inefficient. Also, starting assignments immediately and working together in study groups are highly recommended.

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Take Advantage of Department Resources.

Seek academic advising every semester. You are assigned an academic adviser, but you may see any faculty member you choose. If a problem develops, seek advice immediately. Almost all problems are easier to solve in their early stages.

One of the most important resources is the Cooperative Education Program. Many students find working in industry puts their academic work in perspective and helps narrow career choices.