

Advising Matters

ENGINEERING ADVISING CENTER • 230 CHRYSLER CENTER

eac_advising@umich.edu

www.engin.umich.edu/advising

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-5

11 Tips to Prepare for Final Exams

By Tony Martus,
ChemE Senior & EAC Peer Advisor

1. **Have a Plan** - Make a specific plan that allows you to begin studying at least 1-2 weeks in advance for each final. Your plan should include the material you will study, what time of day you will study, and where you will study. As final exam week approaches, it is important that you review your syllabus. Find out when projects are due at the end of the semester. Also pay attention to when and where the final exam is for the class. It may be in a building you have not yet visited.

2. **Attend Review Sessions** - Be sure to attend review sessions; they can give you a taste of the type of questions your instructor is going to ask. It can also be an opportunity to get some of your questions answered.

3. **Don't Procrastinate** - Stick to the plan you made. Final exams become stressful when you start procrastinating. Procrastinating leads to two evils: cramming and all-nighters.

4. **Don't Cram** - It just doesn't work here! If you really want to cram, then do so a week before the exam, and continue to review the material as the exam approaches. Research has shown that students who study regularly remember the material far better than those who do all of their studying in one marathon session of cramming.

5. **Avoid All-Nighters** - I know all the cool kids are doing it, but when you pull all-nighters you are not as focused for the exam and retain less information. You need a good night's rest.

6. **Minimize Distractions** - Leave your room and

go somewhere else to study - this will limit your distractions. Bring snack food with you... "hunger" can be a great excuse for procrastination.

7. **Find a Study Buddy** - Study with a few other people. This camaraderie can help you stay motivated and study longer than you might on your own.

8. **Help a friend** - Help a friend who doesn't seem to understand the topics as well as you. The best way to retain information and study concepts is to teach it to someone else.

9. **Anticipate Tough Questions** - Remember that professors are not going to give you a problem that you have already done before because they want to challenge you. Normally exams consist of familiar questions with a twist. Look to the hard questions - If you find yourself saying, "the professor wouldn't be that mean," you should really try to learn that concept.

10. **Use a Reward System** - Give yourself little rewards while studying. When you get to a certain point in the material, give yourself a cookie or a short break. This helps you stay motivated.

11. **Stay Balanced** - If you start to feel overly stressed, take a break. If you don't have some "you" time, then you are not going to get through exams. However, be sure to keep these breaks short...they should not turn into hours of procrastination.

COURSE PLANNING WALK-IN HOURS

AT THE EAC:

December 1, 2, 8 and 9 from 1-5 p.m.

You may also meet with a Peer Advisor:

Bursley: Thursdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

UGLi 2124: Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Choosing an Engineering Major

By Kelsey Gross, EAC Staff Advisor

Many students feel nervous about choosing a major. Some fear that they will be “stuck” in a career field for the rest of their lives as a result of their choice. Others feel pressure from their parents or friends to select a certain major, or worry about job opportunities and salary potential.

Unfortunately, this worry and pressure often leads to inaction and indecisiveness. The key to making a sound decision is to gather as much information as possible, and then select a major that seems most interesting to you.

First, identify your work-related values, interests, and skills. Values include things like whether you prefer to work indoors or outdoors, with a team or individually, if you want to travel, or earn a certain salary. Interests and skills must also match up – it doesn’t make sense to choose a major that you are good at if it does not interest you! Which subjects and hobbies you most enjoy? Ask family and friends what they view as your strengths.

Next, research majors and careers. Read about required courses for each major in the CoE Bulletin (www.engin.umich.edu/students/bulletin/), review department websites, and meet with students and program advisors from your majors of interest. Sign up to meet with an EAC faculty advisor at www.engin.umich.edu/advising.

You can also do online research – pick up a Career Exploration Website List at the EAC. If you would like to know which employers hire UM grads, the Engineering Career Resource Center (<http://career.engin.umich.edu/index.html>) collects information on employers and hiring trends.

After you gather information about yourself and career fields, compare the two. Which majors/careers fit best with your interests, values and skills? People are most satisfied when there is a good match between these elements.

Finally, remember that your decision is not set in stone. Over 70% of students change majors, and many graduates work in fields unrelated to their degree area. As you investigate your options, you’ll likely find that choosing a major is not as “major” a decision as you thought.

Selecting Humanities and Social Science (HUSS) Courses

Many first-year students wonder how to select humanity and social science courses. Ideally, you should choose courses that interest YOU. Here are some of the EAC peer advisors’ favorite HU and SS offerings:

Erica

English 341 - Fantasy Literature (HU)

We were required to read a lot of books, but they were all very interesting. It was like being forced to read for pleasure!

Audra

Spanish 320: Intro to Spanish Literature (HU)

I liked this course because it was the first Spanish class that was less about learning vocabulary and grammar, and more about analysis of famous Spanish literature.

Jordan

Italian 333- Dante’s Divine Comedy (HU)

I love learning new languages, plus reading a classic was a bonus.

Ann

Environ 211: Environmental Problems (SS)

This class is an overview of how environmental issues relate to the major social sciences. Every week we studied a new subject, so it was never boring. Also, there were a lot of interesting case studies that I could relate to my everyday life.

Jillian

Religion 122 - The New Testament (HU)

I liked it because the professor was entertaining, and the assignments consisted of reading books in the Bible.

Shannon

Asian 325 - Zen Buddhism (HU)

This was a fun class because it allowed me to explore a different culture and religion in Ann Arbor. It was great to go to a local Zen Temple to practice meditation techniques and see a real application of what I was learning.

Jessie

HistArt 212: Understanding Architecture (HU)

The course was easy to follow and had really interesting lectures. The projects (e.g., I built a stool out of cardboard) were really fun.

You Can Do Pre-Health and Engineering!

By Audra Williams,
ChemE Junior & EAC Peer Advisor
and Jordan Wyrwa,
BioMed Senior & EAC Peer Advisor

Myth: I want to go to medical school, so I need to transfer out of engineering.

Fact: You can choose any engineering major for your undergraduate degree and still apply to medical school! A degree in engineering will equip you with valuable critical thinking skills that are used in every field, including medicine.

Although requirements can vary between medical schools, common pre-requisites include inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, biology, biological chemistry, and English. As an engineer, many of these classes can also count toward your engineering major. It is feasible to major in any of the College of Engineering majors, but commonly pre-medical students choose Biomedical Engineering or Chemical Engineering because the requirements line up most closely.

If you are considering medical school, make sure you plan early. That way, you can take the best combination of classes to fulfill both the College of Engineering and medical school requirements. Also, some courses are only offered in one term or need to be taken in a particular sequence. Be sure to meet with your engineering advisor and also make an appointment with a pre-health advisor (see website, right) so you can plan your schedule. In addition to the required classes, all students applying to medical school are required to take the MCAT exam. Most students take the MCAT during the summer after their junior year. A pre-health advisor can give you more information on how to prepare for this exam.

To complement your coursework, we recommend volunteering in the health care field. Volunteer experience will show medical schools that you have the desire to help others. Working with patients in a hospital or clinic setting can also help you decide if medicine is the right path for you. Gathering information about the field is another good idea. You could consider joining the Pre-Med Club or the Society of Pre-Medical Engineers to meet other students with similar goals. The Society of Pre-Medical Engineers (SOPE) is a great option because it is tailored for engineering students. SOPE offers pre-health information sessions with advisors, physicians, and medical students, volunteering opportunities with the Red Cross, and physician shadowing. Check out SOPE and other pre-med groups on Maize Pages: <http://uuis.umich.edu/maizepgs/>

For more information on pre-health advising and courses, visit: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/advising/advisor/prehealth>. As a pre-medical engineering student, classes can seem overwhelming at times, but as long as you enjoy the coursework and have your goal in mind, it is worth it. Both of us are extremely happy with our decision to be pre-medical engineers. Feel free to contact us anytime if you have questions about your decision!

R EADY TO REGISTER?

View your enrollment date and time on your Student Center page, and begin backpacking. You can register on that date from any computer. If you have difficulty scheduling classes, come to the EAC.

Still not sure about your major?

Join us for the

CoE MAJORS FAIR
JANUARY 28 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Representatives from each major
will be in the Duderstadt Connector.

FREE PIZZA!!!

HA HA HA! HA HA HA! HA HA HA!

Engineering Joke of the Day:

What is the integral of "one over cabin" with respect to "cabin"?

Answer: Natural log cabin + c = Houseboat

University of Michigan
College of Engineering
230 Chrysler Center
2121 Bonisteel Blvd.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2092

The Regents of the University of Michigan:
Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman, ex officio

Your EAC Advisors:
Mercedes (Mechy) Barcia, Director,
barciamg@umich.edu
Kelsey Gross, Advisor, kebben@umich.edu
Kurt C. Hill, Advisor, kchill@umich.edu
Shawn Salata, Advisor, ssalata@umich.edu
Beth Anne Zielinski, Advisor, bazie@umich.edu
Rachel Flaten, Student Assist., rachelfk@umich.edu

Info to Know: Humanities and Social Science Requirements for the CoE Core Curriculum

- You are required to take 16 credits of humanities and social sciences courses. Of these, at least 6 credits must be humanities (there is no requirement for social sciences).
- Within those 16 credits, you must complete at least one course of 3 credits (or more) at 300 level or above.
- You can take up to 14 credits of humanities, social sciences, or general electives pass/fail.
- Your First Year Handbook and College of Engineering Bulletin have information on which courses count as humanities and social sciences. Go to www.lsa.umich.edu/cg and click on "advanced search" to search specifically for "HU" or "SS" courses.
- Choose courses that interest you. This is your opportunity to expand your horizons and give your brain a rest from math and science!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

December = Register for Winter Term classes! Your registration date is posted on your Student Center page in Wolverine Access; look under "Enrollment Dates" on the right-hand side. On that date, register yourself from any computer. Come to the EAC if you have difficulty with registration.

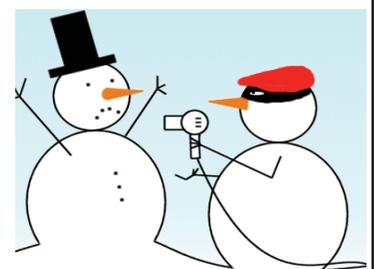
December 10 = CoE Design Expo in Duderstadt/Pierpont Connector. Preview the kinds of projects you will do in your upper-level courses!

December 14 = Classes end.

December 16 - December 23 = Final Exams.

January 6 = Classes Resume.

January 6-26 = Walk-in Hours at the EAC.



SEE YOU IN 2010!