

# Advising Matters

ENGINEERING ADVISING CENTER • 230 CHRYSLER CENTER • MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-5

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[www.engin.umich.edu/advising](http://www.engin.umich.edu/advising)

## Attend the CoE Majors Fair: January 28

Still not sure which engineering major is right for you? The EAC is hosting the **CoE Majors Fair** on January 28 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Duderstadt Connector/Chesebrough Lobby.

Each department will have faculty and staff advising representatives available to answer your questions about their department. Representatives will also be available to answer questions about the International Minor, the Multidisciplinary Design Minor, the Entrepreneurship Program, and the Art and Design Minor. Speaking with a faculty member can be particularly valuable because they have devoted their life to the study of that subject. Who better to ask than someone who is immersed in the field?

Sample questions you could get answered at this event, and would help you decide on a major:

*What career opportunities could I expect with a degree in this major?*

*What are some common sub-disciplines of study within this major?*

*What is the upper-level coursework like in this major? What types of projects would I do?*

*How is this major different from the others? What skills are useful for students in this major?*

*What is the future of this field? What are the current research trends in this major?*

In addition to this great opportunity to meet with representatives from all majors in one location, you will also get **FREE PIZZA** if you participate in this event. Hope to see you there!

## EAC WALK-IN HOURS:

**January 6-26, 9-11:30 and  
1-4:30, Monday-Friday**

**Stop in for help with your schedule or  
for quick questions**

## **Didn't do as well as you hoped last term? Here's what to do:**

You need at least a C- to pass your CoE core courses (i.e., Math, Engineering 100 and 101, Physics, and Chemistry). If you plan to declare an EECS major, you will need at least a "C" in your core CoE courses to pass.

If you did not achieve passing grades in Fall 2009, you will need to re-take courses THIS TERM. Visit the EAC during walk-in hours, January 8-28, for help with your schedule.

**NOTE: Math is the MOST IMPORTANT indicator for CoE success.** Even if you passed your Math course with a C-, you should strongly consider re-taking the course to improve your understanding. Data shows that students who get a C- in Math do poorly in the next Math course. Discuss this option with your advisor.

If you are unsatisfied with your GPA, or received notice that you are on Academic Probation, see your advisor IMMEDIATELY to discuss next steps.

We recommend all students set up a new weekly schedule that includes at least 3 hours of study for each credit hour. Decide which resources and study skills you will use **NOW** so that you can start strong this term.

# Plan Ahead for Internships

By Jillian VandePutte  
IOE Senior & EAC Peer Advisor

A new semester has arrived and with it comes new opportunities! Before classes get hectic, I recommend you start making plans for summer 2010. An internship can be a great experience and an integral part of your college career. So how do you get one? Here are four tips for securing a summer internship.

1) **Prepare your résumé.** A résumé is a document that you submit when you apply for a job; it summarizes your qualifications, experience, and skills. The Engineering Career Resource Center (ECRC), located next to the EAC in the Chrysler Center, is a useful resource for tips on how to prepare your first résumé. Even if you already have a résumé, the ECRC provides résumé critiquing and can answer any questions. You can also visit the ECRC's website at <http://career.engin.umich.edu/>. If you find that your experience is a little lacking, consider adding to it by becoming more involved on campus. Student organizations can provide you with valuable and relevant experience. Better yet, take a leadership role or become very active in a few groups. This will help make your résumé more impressive. A polished and professional résumé helps you make a positive first impression with potential employers.

2) **Attend corporate events.** There are plenty of opportunities to meet company representatives on campus and learn more about their internship programs. For example, the ECRC is hosting a

Career Fair on February 4, 2010. Attending your first career fair can be daunting. The ECRC hosts several workshops to help you prepare for this event. When you attend the fair, be sure that you can market yourself as an asset to the company. It's important to be confident, professional, and polite when you approach a representative. The ECRC can provide you with great tips for how to meet and greet recruiters.

3) **Know your stuff.** When you speak with a potential employer, make sure you know about the company. The best strategy is to thoroughly research the companies that interest you. Make sure you know enough so you can bring up talking points and ask questions. Also, it is important to dress for the occasion. Dressing appropriately sets you apart from other candidates and models your professionalism. A business suit is appropriate for both men and women.

4) **Practice interview skills.** You landed an interview...now what? Make sure you take time to practice interviewing. Attend ECRC workshops on campus or look up sample questions online. Your first interview can be daunting, but it will be more manageable if you're prepared. Research the company and ask questions during the interview. Don't be intimidated by recruiters; they were once in your position!

Remember that the majority of first-year students will not land internships, but this shouldn't discourage you from trying. Play to your strengths and give employers a reason to hire you. Otherwise, think about jobs or volunteer opportunities that would help you gain experience this summer and create contacts for next year. Networking with the people around you is the key to being successful in the corporate world.

If you are looking for something else worthwhile to do this summer, it is common for first-year students to enroll in spring and summer classes. This can help you get ahead and be prepared for next year. Or, consider finding a research opportunity in a lab on campus. There are many professors looking for help during the summer. Be proactive and send emails to professors and departments. This can be a great chance to gain experience and beef up your resume. Whatever you end up doing this summer, use the resources on campus to position yourself for success!

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!!!**

## It is Possible to Study Abroad as an Engineer!

By Mikey Chung,  
ChemE Junior & EAC Peer Advisor

Have you ever thought about studying abroad? If not, you should definitely consider it. You'll have the opportunity to experience new cultures, customs, languages, foods, and lifestyles. I am currently studying abroad in France for the entire academic year and am having an amazing time.

You can study abroad at any time during your years at Michigan. It is best to start planning for your study abroad experience as soon as possible. Trust me; you need to give yourself a lot of time to plan where you are going, the classes you will take, financial issues, housing, and much more. The International Programs in Engineering Office (IPE), located in 245 Chrysler, is here to help you throughout the process.

Many students study abroad during the Spring/Summer Terms so that they can gain extra credits overseas without worrying about whether they will stay on track with their engineering curriculum. There are many summer programs where you can complete engineering coursework, like Energy Tomorrow in Australia, the UM-SJTU Joint Institute Program in China, or the GEA Aerospace Program in France. Or, some students choose to go abroad during the summer and take social sciences and humanities courses.

It can be a bit more challenging to study abroad during the Fall or Winter Terms because you have to find schools that offer equivalents of your engineering classes, but is completely doable. It is easy to find schools that offer lower level requirements such as physics, math, and introductory departmental courses. Depending on your major, it can be more difficult to find equivalents of higher level engineering courses at overseas institutions. You should not rule out the possibility of studying abroad as a senior, but it can be more challenging to find equivalent courses.

Whenever you want to go, the IPE office will help you make it happen. Check out the IPE website to learn more about programs: [www.engin.umich.edu/ipe](http://www.engin.umich.edu/ipe). You can also check out options through the Office of International Programs (OIP) in

1712 Chemistry Building, or non-UM study abroad programs.

Studying abroad has a lot of advantages. Companies like to see that students are able to adapt to a completely different culture (and in some cases, a different language). As the job market is becoming more global, employers like to hire students with international experience. In addition to spending time in my host city, it's been easy and relatively cheap for me to travel to other parts of France, as well as to Germany.

Also, it's a great personal experience. You will learn many things about your new culture and about yourself. I have now been in France for four months, and I've met interesting people from all over the world with different experiences, backgrounds, and stories. I'm immersed in the French language and culture every day. I'm forced to do everything in French, like go grocery shopping, order food at a restaurant, ask for directions, and talk with my peers. It really challenges me in a way that I've never been challenged before. In the beginning, it was difficult to find different ways to say things than I would in English. However, my French continues to improve and I learn something new every day.

There are so many differences between American culture and other cultures. I'm hoping to incorporate some things from French culture into my life when I return to the U.S. I highly recommend you study abroad and take advantage of all the opportunities to immerse yourself in the culture when you are there.

If you are seriously considering studying abroad or if you just have a few questions and want to learn more, stop by the IPE office today!

**International Programs in Engineering**  
**Walk-in Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**  
**245 Chrysler Center**

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

### Engineering Joke of the Day:

*Question: What do physics students love to do at baseball games?*

*Answer: "The wave"*

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## January 19 is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Visit <http://mlksymposium.umich.edu/> for more information on commemorative events on campus.



Take the time to honor this leader of the Civil Rights movement, and consider the many injustices that still exist in our world.

The EAC advising team welcomes you back for the Winter 2010 term.

Good luck starting classes!

*Please see your advisor if you are concerned about your progress so far. We can help you make a plan to succeed this term!*

## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

January 6 = Classes begin.

January 6-26 = Walk-In Advising at the EAC from 9-11:30 and 1-4:30, Monday-Friday. Stop in for help making schedule changes.

January 18 = Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no classes. Attend events on campus!

January 26 = Add/Drop Deadline without a "W" on record.

January 26 = MPowered Career Fair. Check out internship and job opportunities with start-up companies.

January 28 = CoE Majors Fair; 4:30-6:30 in the Duderstadt Connector. Be there!

February 4 = Winter Engineering Career Fair, sponsored by the ECRC. Talk with employers to learn more about internship, co-op, and full-time job opportunities for grads in your field of interest. Held in Duderstadt/Pierpont/EECS.