



What is something that you wish you knew or had done differently when starting engineering in college as a freshman?

Welcome to the SWEet Wisdom column!

Many of you might be thinking about or even applying to college right now. Curious about the college experience? Wondering what advice collegiate and professional SWE members might have based on their experiences? If so, keep reading!

Emily Principle

Junior in Chemical Engineering at Western Michigan University

As a college freshman, I wish someone told me that I will have free time in college. I made social sacrifices in the past because I thought I needed to spend every minute of my free time studying for my difficult engineering courses.



However, now I'm a third-year student at Western Michigan University, and I have created plenty of free time for myself to hang out with friends, hit the gym and do whatever else makes me happy (and yet maintain a GPA above 3.0). As a freshman in college, don't stress too much over your schoolwork. Have fun in college because it's going to be a great few years.

Kaelee Mader

B.S. in Chemical Engineering, Louisiana State University
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First, use your college resources and also speak to your engineering counselor about the different engineering types and career opportunities. Second, connect with your classmates early and often! These connections will help you get through school! Third, connect with your local SWE section early and get involved.

Catherine Gurecky

Senior in Chemical Engineering at Cornell University
Cornell SWE President-Elect

Take the time to learn about and take advantage of your university's resources. Every university has a lot to offer, such as office hours, free tutoring, the career center and even free cooking classes or yoga. Also, there are so many professors and upperclassmen who are willing and excited to help you succeed, so never be afraid to ask for help. Learning to embrace uncertainties and step outside of your comfort zone will lead to tremendous growth.



Do you have a question for our women engineers at SWE? We'd love to hear from you! Send your questions to swenext@swe.org. We'll answer you, and your question may become a future SWEet Wisdom column!



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