How to Support a New Engineering Student

Welcome to Purdue University Fort Wayne! We are excited to have your loved one join our family and look forward to working with them through their education. Engineering is filled with rewarding and ever-evolving careers.

Starting college can be overwhelming, and engineering is a demanding major for both the students and their support system. In the end, being successful is up to the student. However, there are several places you can support their efforts, particularly by encouraging them to:

1. set realistic time commitments,
2. use student success resources available on campus, and
3. foster an attitude for success.

1. Realistic Time Commitments

Engineering students at Purdue Fort Wayne are constantly over-committing themselves with too many course credits, too much work, and too many other commitments with family, friends, and their community. Setting realistic course and work loads is essential for succeeding in the program.

So how many course credits should they take? Well it depends on how many hours a week they plan to work. The following table can be used to estimate how many credits are realistic to take based on hours of work per week.

Hours of Work (hrs./week)	10	20	40
Maximum Credit Load	Full load (15 credits)	12 credits	8 credits

2. Use Student Success Resources

The #1 way to succeed in engineering is to ask for help early and often. A wide range of resources are available to help students for free across campus, but students need to initiate using them. Encourage them to make use of resources when they need them.

Resources available include:

- o **Course Instructor Office Hours**: Office hours are times during the week when the instructor will be available to answer student questions about course work or their major. The times and days are posted on department websites and course syllabi.

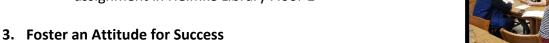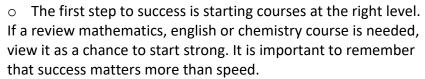- o **ETCS Success Center:** The College of ETCS first-year advisors can be found in room ET 229. They can provide advice and assistance for dealing with the full range of issues that affect student success. The Success Center also runs great programs like:

- **The Help Corner:** Free tutoring is available for most engineering courses in ET 317 throughout the semester. Hours are posted on the door as well as on the website.
- **LEAD Peer Mentor:** Lead connects first-year students to upperclassmen peer mentors and industry mentors through a variety of activities and events.
- **Living Learning Community:** ETCS students who live in student housing are grouped together to helps students meet their classmates and upperclassmen in their programs.

o **Tutoring Center:** Students can get more information about tutoring across campus by going to the Helmke Library Floor 2. They can direct you to specific information about:

- **Math Mall:** Free help with all math courses can be found in Kettler, room KT G19
- **Writing Center:** Students can get feedback on writing assignment in Helmke Library Floor 1

3. **Foster an Attitude for Success**

o The first step to success is starting courses at the right level. If a review mathematics, english or chemistry course is needed, view it as a chance to start strong. It is important to remember that success matters more than speed.

o Studies have shown that students who believe that success in school is a result of their effort and work are more likely to work harder and perform better than students who think that success is a result of how smart they are.

o Students need to be prepared for homework problems that are longer and more challenging than what they have seen before. Start homework early to leave time to review and ask for help.

o Students should expect to spend 2-3 hours per credit hour studying for each class. For example, ENGR 12700 is a 4 credit hour course, which means they should expect to dedicate about 12 hours of outside class time studying and doing homework.

o Spending time on campus outside of class, for study & homework, has been shown to improve success.

Financial Aid: Due to the regular changes in programs and regulations always get your detailed information on Financial Assistance from the Purdue University Fort Wayne Financial Aid Office (260) 481- 6820. Be sure each year to file a FAFSA form by early March. Students should complete the Common Scholarship Application also by early March.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: This Federal law protects the privacy of student education records and gives the student the right to view their academic records. College students are considered adults and may determine who will receive information about them. University representatives are prohibited from discussing information about the student's academic record unless: 1. The student has signed a release allowing release, or 2. Parents have provided the registrar with a copy of their most recent tax return showing that the student is a qualified dependent. If you request information from a faculty member they will have to contact the registrar to assure one of these conditions is met.