



PARENT newsletter

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■ advisor advice

Hello families of ISU Engineering Students!

Now that the semester is in full swing I wanted to take a moment to give you some information about one of the most important and accessible resources all of your students have on campus: their academic adviser. Advisers are assigned to each student to assist them with advice and knowledge about campus.

If your student is unsure who their adviser is, they can find this information in the AccessPlus system—they log in, click on the Student tab, and then Current Student Info at the left side of the screen. There they can see their adviser's name, and they can also make sure that their own contact information is up to date. From there, they can use the ISU Directory (on the ISU homepage at the top right) to look up the contact information for their adviser.

One of the main discussions I am having at this point in the semester with students is about academic support. There are a number of academic support resources on campus that are either free, or available at a low cost to students. Rather than outline them all here, I would ask you to direct your student to contact us—as their adviser we can help them work through what they are struggling with and match them to the best resource.

I always tell students two things:

- 1) Don't wait until it is too late to get help! It is much easier to lay a good foundation early rather than try to play catch up at the last moment.
- 2) Academic support is for any student who wants to do better than they are doing on their own, not just those struggling to pass a course. If you are making a C+, and would like a B, academic support is for you! I would very strongly encourage all students to meet with their adviser (many are required to) for discussions about classes, majors, minors, study abroad, etc. for the future semester. Students are assigned registration dates according to the number of credits they have earned, so encourage your students to pay attention to their ISU email address for more information on registration from their adviser.

Thanks for reading and Go Cyclones!

Kelsey Smyth
Academic Adviser



merit page

professional online profile for students

The College of Engineering is using a social media tool called Merit Pages to recognize the many accomplishments of our students.

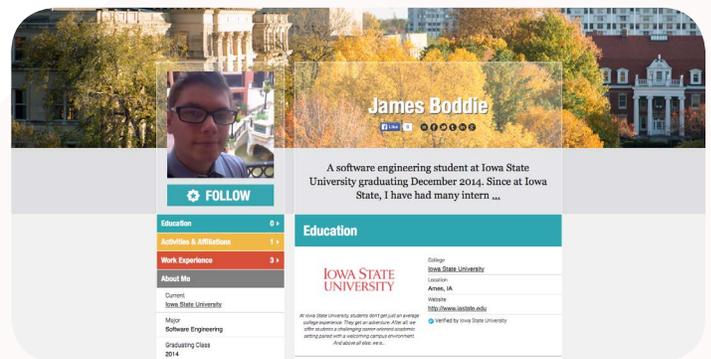
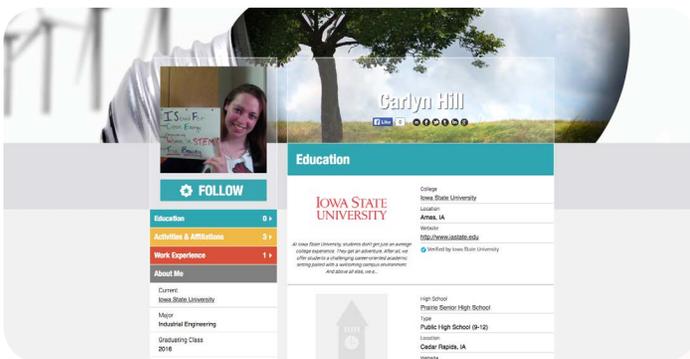
We know just how great our engineering students are, and now we have another way to let others know, too. Through a program called Merit Pages, the College of Engineering and Iowa State are celebrating and publicizing the wonderful things your students are doing.

The college uses the social media tool to award badges that showcase students' activities and experiences – things like leadership, academic honors, research, student organizations,

study abroad and so much more. These achievements display on the Iowa State Merit Page, and students have an individual Merit pages as well.

When students “claim” their page, they get another valuable tool for building their professional presence online. They can add their own information, such as campus activities and internships, giving them a way to network and provide recruiters and other important people with a sense of their adventure at Iowa State.

Each time students are recognized with a badge, they get an e-mail notification. Often times, we also share their success with local newspapers and media. But the news doesn't have to stop there! Encourage your students to share their badges with you and friends! They can simply pass the e-mail along, or even better, post it to Facebook or Twitter. They are doing so much to be proud of, and the more people who know about how great they are, the better!



MORE INFO

[merit at iowa state](#)

■ leadership studies program

The engineering leadership studies program has entered the spring semester with extreme excitement for our students and programming. The number of students in the program continue to grow, as well as the support from the College of Engineering and employers. In addition to offering a 21 credit hour certificate in community leadership, we are now offering a 15 credit hour minor in leadership studies. These two programs involve same core courses with interdisciplinary electives, engaging students in development of leadership skills while developing their technical skills and integrating the two highly valued skill sets. The certificate engages students in a communications and capstone course as a means of tying together their leadership learning and skill development during their undergraduate career. The 15 credit hour minor provides students with a heavier major course load and the opportunity to engage in leadership learning and development. All of the engineering leadership courses, including ENGR 150 Foundations of Learning in Engineering, ENGR 155x Leadership in Engineering Organizations, ENGR 250x Leadership in Engineering Teams, and ENGR 350 Dean's Leadership Seminar, count as credits for the certificate and the minor.



■ engineering career fair

Twice a year, the [College of Engineering's Career Services](#) organizes a career fair of over 200 employers, marking the beginning of the primary hiring period for the semester. The career fair is a large networking event where students can meet with employers that are focused on hiring Cyclone engineers to fill co-op, internship and full-time positions.

All engineering students are encouraged to participate in the fairs. Even students who are not currently seeking employment can use this event to investigate different companies and practice their professional networking skills. Face-to-face contact with employers is crucial in the job search process as employers work to identify individuals with skill sets and interests that match their engineering talent needs. 85% of employers say that career fairs play a significant role in their college recruiting efforts.

Many of the recruiters that attend the fairs are College of Engineering alumni. Not only do they make employment opportunities available, but they also offer feedback to help students develop their networking and interviewing skills. When an individual with the required qualifications connects with the right employer and makes a positive impression, this generally leads to an interview. As a result of the career fairs and other networking events, the College hosts over 4,000 on-campus interviews each year.

The fairs wouldn't be possible without the efforts of a select group of students. A student leadership team and nearly 100 student ambassadors contribute to each fair. The students gain leadership, teamwork, project management and other skill-building experience.

For a quick look at one of the fairs and to hear what employers have to say about Cyclone Engineers, click on the video link.



VIDEO LINK

[why companies recruit iowa state engineers](#)

CO-ops & internships

how important are they?

What are Co-ops and Internships?

Co-ops and internships are work experiences that augment learning and accelerate the skill development of students. Unlike a typical part-time job, an engineering co-op or internship must involve the practice of engineering. An internship is a single semester and/or summer at an employer and a co-op is multiple semesters at the same employer. For co-ops, the work-terms alternate with academic study and the student's level of responsibility generally increases with each return to the workplace.

Benefits to Students

Co-ops and internships are the bridge between classwork and the professional practice of engineering. They provide students with a number of important benefits which include:

- **Enhanced career exploration and clarification of career goals.**
- **A greater understanding and appreciation of educational needs and objectives.**
- **An improved ability to apply knowledge and make connections between theory and practice.**
- **Opportunities to develop professional skills and workplace habits.**
- **Compensation that can be used to help defray college expenses. (These are paid positions and the average wage is around \$18.00 an hour.)**
- **A stronger resume, professional networking opportunities, and generally, more full-time employment opportunities upon graduation.**

