

Happy February!

It is hard to believe how quickly the spring term is progressing. Students have transitioned back after the winter break, and they are now deep into their spring term of studies with our spring break, March 17-21st, right around the corner

Course Scheduling

Your student should begin scheduling an advising appointment to discuss summer and fall registration options. Students can review the registration process and view course offerings at:

<http://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#registrationprocesstext>. Many students find summer offerings afford a great opportunity to work ahead in their engineering curriculum with a variety of course offerings available. Adviser contact information is found at: <http://www.engineering.iastate.edu/student-services/advising/advising-center/>

Co-ops and Internships

This is a great time of year for students to explore opportunities for coop and internship experiences. Students can utilize the campus CyHire system, found at: <http://www.engineering.iastate.edu/ecs/>. Our Career Services staff are a wonderful resource for your student, and the link provided has additional great information for students to review, with information on how to connect to the professional staff in our Career Services office.

Scholarships

Our college's scholarship application has recently closed. The scholarship application was advertised to all students via emails, the college's website and four informational sessions. At these sessions, we shared information and helpful tips to assist students with the scholarship application process. Over 200 students attended the sessions this year. Students who have applied to the scholarship program will be informed of scholarship selections by the end of April of this spring term. An additional scholarship resource of note, is our financial aid website, found at: <http://www.financialaid.iastate.edu/scholarships/>. Students are encouraged to peruse this site as well for other potential scholarship opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Student Services staff with questions or concerns!

We hope your student is off to a great spring term at Iowa State!

Warm regards,
Joel Johnson, Ph.D.
Director, Student Services
College of Engineering
Iowa State University

In This Issue

- Letter from the Director, 1
- Career Fair, 2
- Co-Ops, 3
- Academic Advising, 4
- Financial Aid, 5

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 skillsets 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, [watch this](#)



Co-ops and 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 \$17.00 an hour.)
- A stronger resume, professional networking opportunities, and generally, more full-time employment opportunities upon graduation.



Engineering Career Services
308 Marston Hall
ecs@iaste.edu

Adviser Advice

Hello families of ISU Engineering Students!

I hope you have all be surviving this cold winter---campus is absolutely beautiful in the snow, but I would be ok if it warmed up about 20 degrees—and I'm sure your students would as well!

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.

At this point in the semester most classes are preparing for their first exams. One of the main discussions I am having with students now 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! The month of March is when we start to talk about registration for the upcoming semester. 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.

One final item to know about is the deadline to drop a course without extenuating circumstances. These dates are posted on the Academic Calendar, available to everyone on the ISU website, and the final day to drop for Spring 2014 is Friday, March 28. Students must get both their instructor's and adviser's signatures when dropping a class, so it is important to speak with their adviser before the deadline. Students are limited as to the number of drops they have during their entire career at ISU, so it is very important to meet with their adviser to see how the decision to drop could impact them!

Thanks for reading and Go Cyclones!

Kelsey Smyth

Academic Adviser



Contact Us

College of Engineering
Student Services
110 Marston Hall
Ames, IA 50011
800 252-3810

Joel Johnson
joelj@iastate.edu

Steps for Financial Aid

To be considered for optimal financial aid for 2014-15:

1. Complete additional scholarship applications via Iowa State: <http://financialaid.iastate.edu/scholarships/>
 - a. Be mindful of deadlines as they vary!
2. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by March 1
 - a. Please note you can file the FAFSA without having filed 2013 taxes. You would indicate "will file" on the FAFSA and include estimated 2013 tax information but will still be considered a priority filer if FAFSA is filed by March 1. Once taxes are complete for student and/or parent, you would need to update the FAFSA.
3. Receive award letter for 2014-15
 - a. Incoming freshmen will receive at the beginning of April via US Mail.
 - b. Incoming transfer students will receive the second week in April via US Mail.
 - c. Current students will receive the third week in April via an email directing students to view in AccessPlus.
4. For incoming students... the earliest we send out financial aid package information is the beginning of April which will detail financial aid eligibility for the coming year. This allows you the entire month of April to make final decisions about Iowa State ahead of the May 1 acceptance fee refund date. Students are encouraged to accept their offer of admission by paying the \$330 acceptance fee (details included in your acceptance packet) and contract for housing at the earliest opportunity. As such, most students accept their offer of admission and contract for housing ahead of receiving their financial aid eligibility as they can be refunded all but \$35 of their acceptance fee if they cancel their admission by May 1.

Student Financial Aid

www.financialaid.iastate.edu

(515) 294 - 2223