Even More Tips For Student Success
Prepared by Dr. L S Miller, Aerospace Engineering Department

The material outlined below will help you complete your degree and move on to future success. I know many of the tips are incredibly obvious. Remember, however, you need to do the obvious (that’s why it’s obvious).

The best students:

• Follow the program plan of study without deviations
• See their advisor and register as soon as the process opens
• Carefully take electives that enhance their skills & match their career goals
• Attend every class (arriving early)
• Use their textbook and other references
• Take handwritten notes during class (even if there are online notes or handouts)
• Recognize that following lectures or examples doesn’t mean you truly understand the concepts (practice and experience is needed – do homework!)
• Strive to really learn material and to apply it at higher levels
• Work on average 9-hours a week on each engineering class they take
• Study & do homework alone (not in groups)
• Meet with the instructor when they have questions or problems
• Submit assignments and take every exam on time
• Understand there are no short cuts (put simply – they hard work and get results)
• Take great pains to guard their work from inspection or copying by others
• Recognize it’s their responsibility to fully demonstrate their knowledge
• Try to do better than the minimum acceptable levels
• Understand they will not be doing homework and exams in a future job
• Are personally responsible for all that they do or don’t do
• Understand how to effectively use the library
• Think big and aim high
• Understand how to balance fun with everything else
• Are aware that there are many people to compete against
• Take a course only once
• Learn how to learn
• Pay attention to details
• Are creative and think about entrepreneurial opportunities
• Get involved outside of class activities (e.g., AIAA, SWE, SAE, Rocket Club, NSLP, research, co-op, etc.)

The faculty, staff, and administration will do all they can to help you graduate successfully. The AE program is designed, optimized, and delivered with all the right elements to make you a capable and effective young aerospace engineer. Don’t forget that the entire process assumes active, serious, and thoughtful student involvement. Clearly, you also need to do your part.

Please take full advantage of your time here to learn all you can and to practice being better that the “other guy.” Learn, apply, and excel. Be a Shocker!

Feel free to share other suggestions and to talk with your advisor if you have any questions or problems.