Subject: Re: Fwd: ECE 1111: Engineering Computation I (Fall 2024): HW #8 - Advising Spreadsheets
From: Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@gmail.com>
Date: 5/29/24, 6:37 PM
To: temple_engineering_ece1111 <temple_engineering_ece1111@googlegroups.com>
BCC: Melissa M Valdes <melissa.valdes@temple.edu>, Lisa-Marie Price <lmp@temple.edu>, Brian Thomson <brian.thomson@temple.edu>, Cory Budischak <coryb@temple.edu>, Iyad Obeid <iyad.obeid@temple.edu>

Okay, another important note about this 🙂

Often students will tell me something like "I will graduate in Fall XXXX. I'll achieve this by taking 19 hours of all engineering courses in my first semester senior year, and 18 hours of all engineering courses in my second semester... and oh, by the way, I'll work 16 hours a week during the semester. But not to worry... I only work on the weekends."

Well folks... that ain't happenin' ... and you can quote me on that.

It is very difficult to take more than three serious engineering courses in one semester, and more than two labs. Senior year, you have this little course called senior design that will require much more time than the credit hours suggest. It is an important course in your academic development and it will require your best effort.

Then there is your job search process, which is going to be very disruptive to your schedule (but important!).

This is why we spread Gen Eds throughout the curriculum. But many of you burned these in your first few semesters as you played catch-up on math requirements or the complexities of your transfer credits. Your last few semesters will be all engineering courses, and these can be very work-intensive.

Usually, in senior year, students take a reduced number of hours, such as 15 or 16, and don't work outside of school, because you have to spend a lot of time working on your job search (applying to 100 companies, writing a strong resume, studying for job interviews, practice programming tests, on-site interview trips, day-long Zoom interviews, etc.). A lot goes into your job search if you want to land a good job.

This is why I want you to put some thought into what your junior and senior year will look like... and I want that done now. These are tentative plans that can always be changed. However, it is important that everyone get on the same page about your plan of study.

—Joe

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On 5/28/24 7:04 PM, Joseph Picone wrote:

> I have received a number of programs of study for this assignment. I want to reiterate the most important point about this exercise — predicting when you will graduate!
>
> Many of your programs of study do not have dates filled in for all your classes — particularly those classes you must take two or three years from now to graduate. That concerns me.
>
> To underscore this point, the first time I meet you, I am going to ask you in what semester do you plan to graduate 🙂 You better have a good answer!
>
> It is important you understand every decision you make now impacts your future course schedule. While you might have some graduation date in mind, unexpected changes in your plan in your first year are going to impact things down the line. Graduation in four years, for example, requires a specific academic path which most of our students find difficult to follow (just being honest here, not judging you).
>
> I want each of you to actively maintain your POS so that you understand each semester where you stand with respect to graduation after each semester. This has been a huge issue over the years — students in ECE 1111 do not understand the urgency of working hard and keeping on track in those first few semesters, and then they are disappointed when they find out it will take another year to graduate.
>
> Now, don't get me wrong. We love having you in our program, and love having you pay lots of tuition... it is good for business as my dad used to say 🙂
>
> But, I want you to graduate as quickly as possible, or in a time frame that meets your expectations (and our GPA requirements 🙂. This means you have to have a very clear idea how things happening now will impact things two years from now. You need to be in control of your future!

So please take a moment and tentatively pencil in the semesters you plan to take EVERY course in your program, and make sure you discuss this with your advisor. If you stay on top of this, you will most likely graduate earlier because you are properly motivated to stay on track.

If you want to discuss this with me, I am more than willing to. I'll even show you how to edit your spreadsheet with emacs 😉

—Joe

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Subject: ECE 1111: Engineering Computation I (Fall 2024): HW #8 — Advising Spreadsheets
Date: Wed, 22 May 2024 07:43:45 —0400
From: Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@gmail.com>
Reply—To: Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@temple.edu>
To: ECE 1111: Google <temple_engineering_ece1111@googlegroups.com>

Over the years we have seen students struggle with their graduation plans — when will I graduate? what courses do I need to take to graduate? etc.

The college's advising office wants to work closely with students to make sure they have a firm grasp on their specific academic plan.

Towards this goal, I will give you 200 points of extra credit if you:

(1) meet with your advisor on your course selections
(2) have your advisor send me an updated copy of your academic plan
      that shows when you will graduate and what courses you need
      to take to graduate.

It is understood that this plan will change. However, it is important that every semester you update this plan and have a very clear idea what courses you need to graduate.

—Joe