

Frequently Asked Questions in the College of Engineering & Science

How much will I have to study?

You will probably spend 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class. That might include working homework problems, reading, discussing concepts with classmates, making notes, or writing reports. You might not spend all that time at once, but it will add up (and falling behind can add up quickly too!).

What's there to do in Ruston?

Sporting events, concerts, movies, restaurants, "the great outdoors." Ruston is a small place, but with lots of character. You will grow to love it.

Will I have time for fun?

YES! You will have to become disciplined at managing your time, but there is a way to balance school and fun! Your learning experience in college includes not only class-related information, but also gaining social and leadership skills.

Is it pretty much like high school?

Hardly at all. You have much more freedom (and responsibility) to manage your life. Your schedule will be much different – more time outside of class. You'll have to learn to manage all that extra time and everything that comes with it. Study when you want, eat when you want, sleep when you want, have fun when you want... but you will be surprised how quickly your time goes! Your classes will be more challenging and will require a lot more work outside of class. Start well, and realize from the beginning that *college is not like high school!*

How can I learn about my major?

Your first year's classes will help you to get more information about different majors. Also, you should take any opportunity you have to talk to people who have a background in your major and similar majors. Right now this might include family members and friends; when you get to college, it will also include professors and engineering/ science upperclassmen. Other students can be a *huge* resource, so be sure to get involved in student organizations so you can get to know them!

Are the professors easy to talk to?

Professors want to help, but you have to do your part. Find out their system and follow it – some allow "walk-ins," while some prefer you to make an appointment during office hours. You should attempt assignments alone and with a group before going in to talk to a professor about them (and bring that work with you!). You should also feel free to ask questions that are not necessarily related to the class – job and major information, questions about Ruston, etc...

How will I make friends?

College is an experience like no other when it comes to meeting all different types of people. You can make friends starting at orientation, then when you move into the dorms, then when you start your classes, then when you join any student group (professional engineering/science organizations, interest groups, athletics, fraternities/sororities, church groups, etc.)... A misconception is that making a lot of friends will take away from your studies, but research has shown that some extracurricular involvement in college actually improves academic performance. If you balance it well, involvement will add so much value to your college experience. There is a lot to be learned both inside the classroom and outside of it!

For more information about student life in the College of Engineering & Science at Louisiana Tech University, contact Alicia Boudreaux, Student Success Specialist (aliciab@latech.edu).