Why Student Profiles Matter: The Online Graduation Application

One of the new features of MyUTK is the online graduation application. Students can simply go the “UTK Student Academic Links” to apply online when you have earned 90 hours. First, however, students need to check their student profile from the “View Your Profile” tab. The degree, major, concentration, catalog year, and any minor(s) must be correct. The admission semester and expected graduation date need not be showing correctly – the anticipated graduation date is a placeholder and students can graduate prior to the date listed without any trouble.

If the profile is not correct, undergraduate students should contact their advising center or academic major department to have the information corrected. Graduate students should contact the Graduate School at gradschool@utk.edu or 865-974-2475.

Finally, while there is a question about whether a student will attend graduation ceremonies as part of the online graduation application, this information does not provide an RSVP for the college commencement ceremonies in May. Students will receive additional information regarding this ceremony, which takes place only in spring, and are asked to RSVP to these separately please.

New “W” Policy Goes into Effect

There has been a significant alteration to the Changes in Registration policy in the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Previously, students had unlimited opportunities to withdraw from a class and have a grade of W, which does not affect the GPA but does reduce the number of hours in which a student is enrolled. Beginning this fall 2011, however, the policy has changed and all students are now limited to four withdrawals while pursuing a bachelor’s degree. Regardless of how many withdrawals a student has used in the past, each student will have the option to withdraw from only four (4) classes beginning with the fall 2011 semester. A total withdrawal from the university does not count against the four regular withdrawals. Also, students who are pursuing more than one major or degree simultaneously do not have additional drops beyond the four, but students who are returning for a second degree after earning the first will have four additional opportunities to withdraw from a course. Failure to attend a class does NOT drop a student from a class and will NOT count as a withdrawal – students will need to drop courses online at MyUTK. Finally, the first ten days of fall and spring semesters are still open for dropping and adding with no indication on the student’s academic record.
Study Abroad and Outreach Developments for the College of Engineering

There are wonderful opportunities to study abroad as a College of Engineering student. You can find more information on the Engineering Outreach website and at the Programs Abroad information sessions each weekday afternoon at 2:00 PM. Also, don’t forget about the Study Abroad Fellowships, which can provide up to $2,000 to help fund your study abroad experience. Finally, be on the lookout for information forthcoming about a faculty-led study abroad opportunity summer 2012 in London, England where students can earn credit for ECE 301 and ME 331. The campus Study Abroad Fair is September 28 (Wednesday) from 10:00am to 3:00pm in the University Center Ballroom. Everyone welcome.

Changes to the College of Engineering Freshmen Admission Requirements

Beginning with the incoming College of Engineering class for the fall of 2012, there will be a change to the admission requirements for first-year students. Applicants will still need to meet a SPI (Success Prediction Indicator) of 60, which is calculated by multiplying the core high school GPA times ten and adding the Math ACT subscore (or SAT conversion). However, beginning in fall 2012, they must also have a Math ACT (or SAT conversion 620) score of 25. According to the Math Department’s placement standards, incoming first-year students must have a Math ACT of 25 to take Math 130 Pre-calculus. Students who are not Pre-calculus-ready are at a greater risk than students who are and will also be a year behind in taking the Engineering Fundamentals classes. As always, students who do not meet these requirements can still enter the University in another college and try to move into the College of Engineering using the internal transfer policy, which requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 and Cs or better in English 101, Math 141, and Chemistry 120 (Computer Science 102 and 140 instead of Chemistry for the Computer Science major) for admission consideration. Internal transfer decisions reside with the department.

Vols Teach

There is a new program at UT to promote teaching careers in science and math. Vols Teach allows students in Math, Science, or Engineering to earn a secondary teaching license while pursuing their Engineering degree. The program is led by Master Teachers, who are highly respected high school teachers who are serving as clinical faculty. Paid internships associated with education projects are available, as are funds for travel, participation in workshops and seminars, and other benefits if you choose employment in a Tennessee school upon graduation. Vols Teach provides an Honors program environment with an apprentice teaching program in a high school in the final year of the program. Interested students should sign up in the fall for Interdisciplinary Programs 110, a one credit hour course with a tuition rebate. The program is designed for students to take one additional course for 8 semesters and requires a minimum of 27 credit hours. If Engineering students have considered a future in teaching, Vols Teach is a great way to earn both the Engineering degree and the teaching license at the same time.
Work as a Tutor

The UT Educational Advancement Program is actively recruiting tutors for the Fall 2011 semester, in the subject areas of Math, (100 & 200 level) Chemistry (120 & 130 and the Organic sequence), Biology (100 & 200 level), Accounting (200 & 300 level), French, Spanish, Engineering Fundamentals, Economics, Statistics, Physics (221 & 222). Other subjects may be identified as the requests for Tutors are received. Please contact Celeste Brooks at brooksac@utk.edu or (865)974-7900 for more information. You can find the Math Tutorial Center Employment Application online. You can also find information about work opportunities at the Student Success Center and Thornton Center online. The Black Cultural Center has their tutor application online too. These are great opportunities for Engineering students to work on campus.

Student Success Center (SSC) Resources

The Student Success Center offers a wealth of resources to students. For Engineering students, one of the most popular services is Supplemental Instruction (SI). In Supplemental Instruction, a student who has already taken the class and done exceptionally well will sit in on the class and conduct review sessions twice a week. Also, that SI Leader will have office hours in the Student Success Center. Supplemental Instruction is available for Biology 101, Chemistry 120-130, Engineering Fundamentals 151-152, and Math 119-130. Also, the Student Success Center offers Academic Coaching, where students will meet with an Academic Coach to help with issues such as time management, establishing a study plan, motivation/ focus, and much more. Finally, the Student Success Center also has a database that lists all available tutorials on campus, as well as tips for college students. See the Student Success Center webpage for more information on these and other programs.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The Office of Undergraduate Research has several new tools for undergraduates seeking research opportunities. The website contains links to information about EURêKA (Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Achievement), Research Week, Posters at the Capital, and Pursuit, the undergraduate research journal. Additionally, an online database of ongoing research taking place at UTK identifies those projects with opportunities for students. The goal is for this database to serve as a central clearinghouse for researchers to post positions and students to apply for those positions. Finally, students can contact their individual departments for information on research opportunities.

Foreign Language Placement Score Confirmation

Incoming first-year students who took part in the online foreign language placement exam as part of 2011 New Student Orientation need to remember that if they placed into intermediate or advanced foreign language classes and want to receive credit hours for that placement they must confirm their placement exam results with the Modern Foreign Language department. Students need not confirm their results if they are taking the foreign language course
into which they placed. Students can contact the Language Resource Center at 865-974-0797 or in 207 Humanities and Social Sciences Building (HSS).

Interdisciplinary Programs 100: Pre-Health Seminar

Students interested in pursuing a pre-health (pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy) course of study at the University of Tennessee have an opportunity to explore the healthcare fields in a one-hour seminar each fall semester. Interdisciplinary Programs 100 usually meets in the Wood Auditorium of UT Medical Center on Thursdays from 9:45 AM to 10:35 AM. The course provides weekly seminars on topics such as emergency medicine, managed care, family practice, ethical issues in medicine, malpractice, allied health programs, among many others. While the Engineering Advising Services office can assist you in pre-health planning for Engineering students, pre-health advisors can also be found in the Arts and Sciences Advising Center. See the pre-health resources on their website.

Timeline for Spring Online Registration

The Spring timetable will be available for viewing on September 26th. Advising flags can also be cleared beginning September 26th. Don’t forget that all students must be advised each semester until they have earned 30 hours at UT, so all first or second semester transfer and all freshmen students must be advised both Fall and Spring semesters.

Estimated dates for Registration:

Priority (athletes, honors students, etc.) – October 10-11

Seniors (90+ hours) – October 17-18

Juniors (60-89 hours) – October 24-25

Sophomores (30-59 hours) – November 7-8

Freshmen (less than 30 hours) – November 21-22

Curriculum Changes in Engineering Majors

Just another reminder – don’t forget that Philosophy 241 (Engineering Ethics) is no longer taught here at UTK. All Engineering curricula that previously required this course have been revised to require any two Arts and Humanities courses and DARS reports have been recoded to accept any two Arts and Humanities courses. If students have questions regarding this change or their DARS reports, they can contact their major departmental advisor or the Engineering Advising Services office.
There were also curricular changes put in place by Industrial Engineering and Computer Science. Students will want to review the online catalog and compare DARS reports run on different catalog years to get a sense of how these changes affect them. Industrial Engineering students will see that some courses have been replaced in the new curriculum. There will be new IE courses available this year and some IE courses will no longer be available. Computer Science has restructured its curriculum to introduce a track system for the upper-division requirements so that students can now see which classes would address an interest in Theory, Systems, Software, Hardware, Scientific Computing, or Artificial Intelligence. Students can mix and match courses from different tracks, but the tracks will offer greater clarity about the coursework available in various sub-disciplines. Students should consult with their advisors to see how the changes will affect their choice of catalogs.

2011 Incoming Freshmen Class Statistics and Demographics

The 2011 incoming freshmen class is large. As of July 13, 2011, we had 565 students. Of these, 83 (15%) are women and 73 (14%) are African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, or multiracial. Their average ACT Math score was a 28.9 and their average ACT Composite score was a 28.6, which is higher than the average of 26.7 for the entire incoming UT freshman class. For the 400 (71%) students who are calculus ready, these numbers climb to an average ACT Math score of 30.5 and an average ACT Composite score of 29.8. Both of these sets of numbers are higher than the University average. 155 of them (33%) will take a Math course higher than 141 this Fall semester. 104 (22%) students are Chancellor’s Honors students or Haslam Scholars.

2011 Transfer Students Statistics

100 transfer students applied for admission to the Fall 2011 semester. Of these, 79 were admitted and 21 were denied. Of the 79 admitted students, 43 previously attended a four-year school or four-year school and community college while 36 transferred from a community college. 3 were Second Degree students. The major feeders were Pellissippi State Community College, Walter’s State Community College, Roane State Community College, Middle Tennessee State University, and East Tennessee State University. Of admitted transfer students, the majors most in demand were Nuclear, Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering. The minimum requirements to transfer into the College of Engineering are listed in the 2011 catalog. Established transfer and articulation agreements are also available online at the Registrar’s website.

Engineering Advising Services

Room 202 Estabrook Hall

(865)974-4008
engradvising@utk.edu