2023 Summer Orientation
Parents & Supporters Guidebook

UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Engineering

This guidebook will…

☑ **Teach you about the First-Year Engineering Program (FEP)**

☑ **Introduce you to services provided by Engineering One-Stop (EOS)**

☑ **Share ways and resources to support your student**

Still have questions…

☑ **Students can contact EOS by phone 479-575-4540 or send an email from their UARK account to eos@uark.edu**

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS | College of Engineering

Supporting Your Student During Orientation

Even though much of this orientation experience is geared towards your student, there are still ways you can help them get the most out of this experience. Below are a few tips:

During College Session Today:

- Engage in the Group Advising Sessions today. Feel free to ask questions that you may have as we go along and encourage your student to ask questions as well.

- If questions arise during lunch, please write them down and encourage your student to ask during their one-on-one advising appointment. Writing down questions is a great practice to start now and continue throughout their college experience.

- If your student has earned any scholarships, it is important that they know what they are and the requirements to keep them. Many scholarships have GPA and/or credit hour requirements that are important to know when talking with an advisor.

After Orientation:

- If your student has any incoming college credits from dual enrollment or AP exams, confirm with your student that transcripts and scores have been sent to the Office of the Registrar. *registrar.uark.edu/transfer-and-test-credit/*

- Remind your student to check their UARK email daily for important updates about orientation and advising. This is another important habit they will need to continue throughout their college experience.

- Read through the Student Guidebook with your student to help retain information shared today.

- Read through the Parent and Supporters Guidebook to become familiar with ways to help support your student this year.

Supporting Your Student During the Semester

Great, your student is enrolled, packed, and about to begin their college journey. Now what? Here are some tried-and-true tips from our team to yours to best support your student:

Remind them that you care

Texts, notes, and care packages are just some ways to show your support from afar! Plus, a little extra engineering paper never hurts.

Help them identify their "why" for attending college

What is the reason for pursuing an engineering degree and what impact do they want to make on the world and within themselves? Understanding their "why" can help them, and you, pull in extra strength when the going gets rough.

Encourage self-advocacy

This is a leap of independence for many students and managing the class rigor and the freedom of time can be both exciting and scary for them. Encourage your student to seek tutoring, counseling, academic coaching, or attend their professor's office hours when they're unsure. Advocating for their own academic development is a skill best learned in the first year of college and will serve them well down the road.

Promote the power of organization

The effective use of planners, schedules, and calendars are often overlooked tools for success. The love of learning is no match for learning the skills of time management. By encouraging them to make, and keep, a schedule, you are helping them build a structure for success.

Ask more, guide less

This can be a tough one, but asking your student powerful, open-ended questions about their college experience can create more opportunities for their growth not only as a student, but as an emerging adult. Asking questions that begin with "how" or "what" instead of yes/no questions can provide you with insight for how they best receive support.

First-Year Engineering Program Overview

The First-Year Engineering Program (FEP) is a two-semester program required for all incoming freshmen starting in the College of Engineering and all transfer students who have not completed Calculus I.

The First-Year Engineering Program strives to:

- Equip students with critical thinking skills to solve engineering problems independently and collaboratively.
- Prepare students to understand engineering degree requirements and career pathways.
- Empower students by fostering awareness of self, culture, and community.
- Connect students to academic support to help them make satisfactory degree progress.

The two-semester curriculum includes the following:

- Introduction to Engineering I and II
- Two mathematics courses
- Science courses based on student's math progress
- Composition I and II
- At least one state minimum core elective

Students are initially declared as Engineering First-Year students. Students will announce their major in March during a Decision Day celebration. After Decision Day, only students enrolled in Calculus I or higher will officially have their majors changed. Students taking Precalculus in the spring will officially have their major changed once they complete Calculus I.

Engineering One-Stop Overview

Engineering One-Stop (EOS) enhances student access to academic coaching, peer mentoring, academic advising, scholarship and financial aid counseling for all engineering students. EOS partners with FEP and the engineering departments to provide support for students throughout their undergraduate career.

FEP and EOS partner strategically to provide proactive support for all new freshmen entering the College of Engineering. Particular emphasis is placed on academic, personal and career success. The Peer Mentoring Program is a major component of this partnership to help students transition successfully into the College of Engineering.

Below are types of support students can find in Engineering One-Stop:

Academic Advisor

- Understanding requirements for major
- Planning courses for future semesters
- Making changes to schedule like dropping a class
- Learning about minors

Scholarship and Financial Aid Counselor

- Learning about various financial aid sources
- Assisting with application process for financial aid
- Understanding how classes and GPA impact scholarship or financial aid eligibility

Academic Coach

- Developing and improving college-level study habits
- Learning study strategies
- Building a game plan for exams and finals
- Managing stress

Peer Mentor

- Transitioning to college
- Understanding campus resources
- Getting involved on campus
- Succeeding as an engineering student

Engineering Academic Coaching Program

Peer Mentoring Program

Engineering Academic Coaches provide individualized academic support to students in the College of Engineering to improve student persistence and degree completion. The coaches offer services to build skills and self-advocacy by co-creating a success plan that considers life experiences, academic goals, and long-term professional aspirations. Scheduled one-on-one sessions are available Monday through Friday or during weekly drop-in hours.

Coaching services are designed to support students successful transition to the university. They include:
- Learning Strategies
- Effective Studying Techniques
- Getting the most out of homework and class
- Test Preparation
- Emotional Wellness
- Organization Skills
- Time Management
- Test Anxiety
- Navigating campus resources

The coach can also connect students to appropriate services on campus, such as:
- Counseling and mental health services (CAPS)
- Tutoring
- Career Guidance (ENGR Career Services)
- Learning Accommodations (CEA)

Students who could benefit from academic coaching are encouraged to attend between 2-4 meetings throughout the semester, although each student is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For more information, visit
first-year-engineering.uark.edu/academic-coaching.php

What is Peer Mentoring?

Our Peer mentors are upper-class engineering students who are trained and supervised by our Student Services Specialist. Your student will be paired with a Peer Mentor through a matching survey they will complete this summer, and then will start meeting with their Peer Mentor weekly for 30 minutes during their first and second semester. Peer Mentors are trained to facilitate conversations using a weekly topic or designed theme but also encourage their students to speak up and lead the conversation based on their own personal needs. Largely, Peer Mentors are a resource for your student to help them gain insight into learning at the college level, transitioning to find their place at the university, and giving them a firsthand look at what they can expect while pursuing an Engineering degree.

What does my student gain from this?

We consistently have students that struggle in their transition to college. Our Peer Mentors are here to help them through these hurdles. The matching survey we use to pair mentors with their mentees is designed to place your student with a Peer Mentor that had a similar starting point. Encouraging your student to utilize time with their mentor to help them when they reach a point of confusion, a difficult situation, or an academic struggle is not only appreciated, it is by far one of the most effective ways to help your student. Whether it is a question about a specific class, how to navigate the university, or just simply some tips and tricks to pushing through a tough semester, our Peer Mentors have experienced it, and have experienced it recently. Your student's easiest access to "insider information" is through their Peer Mentor.

What kinds of topics will Peer Mentors cover in meetings?

The transition from high school level studying and course work to the university level is expected to be a challenge by the majority of our incoming students, but many seem to underestimate the true degree of difficulty in this change – even the best and brightest students can struggle during their first year. To help students adjust to this new and often demanding workload, Peer Mentors will guide their mentees through topics such as time management, developing relationships with professors, and effective study habits. Peer Mentors help students to build an understanding of the campus resources and strengthen our first-year students professionally, through resume building and interview prep. While they will have a topic of the week to cover, ultimately these meetings are dependent upon your student's needs and questions during that given week – they are here to be a resource and guide for your student.

Engineering Office of Career Connections

College of Engineering students have their own career professionals designed to assist in all aspects of career readiness by offering guidance in career coaching, major selection, resume/cover letter reviews, career assessments, job/internship search, interviewing, LinkedIn profile reviews, salary negotiation, and more!

Parents and supporters are important partners and champions for our office. You can provide valuable support to help your student with career planning. The most valuable things parents/guardians can do to help their student(s) with career planning are:
- Listen
- Be open to their ideas
- Aid your student in finding information

You can do this by:
1. **Encouraging your student to visit the Engineering Career Services Center.** Ask your student, "Have you visited the career center?" If you hear, "You only go there when you are a senior," then it's time to reassure them that meeting with a career coach can occur at any point—and should frequently occur—throughout a college career. Reinforce the value of early participation with career services.
2. **Emphasizing the importance of internships.** The career center will not "place" a student in a job at graduation. A university grants degrees but not job guarantees, so having relevant experience in this competitive job market is critical.
3. **Reminding your student to attend upcoming career events.** The engineering career services center hosts many events to expose students to employers, expose students to career opportunities, and related career readiness topics. Remind your student to attend opportunities.
4. **Encouraging extracurricular involvement.** Part of experiencing college life is to be involved and active outside the classroom. Interpersonal and leadership skills—qualities valued by future employers—are often developed in extracurricular activities.

Key Events:
- **September and March STEM Career Fairs:** Companies recruit for summer internships and full-time openings.
- **Engineers Employed Workshops (E2):** Various professional development workshops and events held throughout the semester to equip engineering students with facing the challenges associated with the job search process and finding a career that best suits their interests, motivational traits, personality, values, abilities, aptitudes, personal work styles, and work environment preferences.

Laptop Requirements

Entering first-year engineering students are required to have a laptop. Students are strongly encouraged to obtain a computer that meets or exceeds the college requirements:

Processor	Intel Core i5 or better
Memory	16GB+ RAM
Storage	256GB solid-state storage
Operating System	Windows
Battery Life	10 hours or more
Resolution	1920 × 1080 or larger
Wi-Fi	802.11ac or later standard
Warranty	3 years with Accidental Damage Protection
Accessories	Webcam, Microphone, and Speakers

NOTE: The University provides Office 365 to students. Chromebooks, iPads, and other ARM based devices do not meet the minimum requirements for the College of Engineering.

The Tech Store serves as the on campus resource for Apple and Dell repairs, sales and support. Visit their website for more details. *techstore.uark.edu*

Students have access to a wide range of applications, from multimedia and productivity to mathematics and statistical analysis. You can find a list for information on how to request, purchase and download university-supported software on the IT Services website. *its.uark.edu*

Tech Spot computer labs are located across campus and offer printing, charging stations and access to a wide range of software.
its.uark.edu/printing-labs/computer-labs/tech-spot-labs.php

Campus Resources

Below are a list of some of the campus resources available for your student. We will be sharing these resources with your student this fall. Visit the websites to learn more about information their services, hours, and location.

Academic Scholarships Office *scholarships.uark.edu*	Scholarship information, eligibility and renewal criteria
Office of Financial Aid *finaid.uark.edu*	State and federal aid questions, renewing aid, changes to aid, work study program
Office of Registrar *registrar.uark.edu*	Academic standing, transfer credit, test credit, registration, transcripts, and graduation
Engineering Office of Career Connections *engineering.uark.edu/career-services/*	Career coaching, major selection, resume/cover letter reviews, career assessments, job/internship search, interviewing, LinkedIn profile reviews, salary negotiation, and more for engineering students.
Librarian for College of Engineering *libraries.uark.edu/info/specialists.asp*	Help students find and use the library resources
Center for Educational Access *cea.uark.edu*	Helps facilitate campus access for students with disabilities, chronic health or temporary limitations
The CORD: Cordia Harrington Center for Excellence *success.uark.edu*	Hub of academic resources including tutoring, supplemental instruction, writing help, peer academic coaching and career peer mentoring

Mathematics and Resource Teaching Center *mrtc.uark.edu*	Provides support, tutoring and testing services and help within the realm of Mathematics
Pat Walker Health Center *health.uark.edu*	Immunizations, illness and injury treatment, lab & x-ray, wellness exams, allergy shots, women's health
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) *health.uark.edu/mental-health*	Counseling, group therapy, mental health crisis intervention, and psychiatry
Veteran and Military-Affiliated Student Center *vmsc.uark.edu*	Campus resources and help with financial aid and scholarships for veterans, current service members, and dependents of veterans
Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education *multicultural.uark.edu*	Provides academic, cultural and social programs intended to promote inclusiveness, foster achievement and assist in the development and advancement of a diverse student body
U of A Cares *uofacares.uark.edu*	Connects students with needed resources to support physical, emotional, and academic well-being; anyone can submit an emergency or non-emergency concern through the website

Important Dates for Your Student

If your student currently qualifies for **College Algebra or Precalculus**, we strongly encourage your student to take the **Math Placement Test** to increase their math preparedness and possibly initial math class.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1
Deadline for transcripts to be received for students granted a temporary math override

MONDAY, AUGUST 14
Attend Engineering Open House to meet faculty, staff, and peers to help prepare students for their first week and semester.

Important Academic Calendar Dates

Every semester has an official calendar with important academic semester dates and deadlines. We have listed important dates and deadlines for the beginning of the fall semester. You can view the full semester calendar on the Registrar's website. *registrar.uark.edu/academic-dates/academic-semester-calendar/*

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
First day of classes

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
Last day to add a full semester class

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27
Last day to drop a full semester class or all classes with 100% fee adjustment ($45 fee for withdrawing)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Last day to drop a full semester class without a "W" on transcript

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Last day to drop a full semester class or all classes with 75% fee adjustment ($45 fee for withdrawing)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Labor Day, no classes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
11th day of classes (important date for scholarships with semester hour requirements)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Last day to drop a full semester class or all classes with 50% fee adjustment ($45 fee for withdrawing)

Encourage your student to check their
university email account regularly over the summer

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Visit the the Tech Store website for all
technology sales, repairs and support needs

techstore.uark.edu

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Tuesday, August 1
Deadline for Math Overrides

Monday, August 21
First Day of Classes

Monday, August 14
1:00 - 3:00 pm
College of Engineering Open House

Friday, August 25
Last Day to add a full semester course

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