Wish I Knew . . . ..................... Things I wish I knew when I was a Freshman

Homework:
Do ALL OF YOUR HOMEWORK !!! Don’t procrastinate – it only snowballs from there. If you get
behind in homework, you will have a difficult time getting caught up and your grades will
suffer. The work is not like it was in High School. You need to study 2 – 3 hours outside of class
for every credit hour in class.

Just Getting By
EERC 123: Excellent Coaching Services
If you memorize all your notes, that’s not enough. Do the problems multiple times until you
have mastered them. Don’t try to get by with just memorizing and doing the minimum to
pass an exam. It’s not worth it, and puts you in danger of failing a future class. This messes
up your graduation plans. Learn the processes, learn what you came here to learn, learn
how to solve problems and learn the why’s. See the instructor if you don’t understand how
to do a problem. You got this far – it’s all worth doing well.

Missing class
Go to all of your classes. You will not do well on quizzes and tests if you miss classes. Really
hurts your GPA.

GPA
GPA is very important when it comes time to co-op, study abroad, job-hunt or apply to grad
school. Once your GPA goes down, it is very hard to get it back up. It’s up to you.
Get yourself into a good routine of studying and make sure you learn the material. Set your
priorities in order to be successful, there will be time to relax and have fun too.

8:00 A.M. Class ?
It’s only 14 weeks, with breaks, so just deal with it. Read ‘Missing class’ above.

Elective Courses
Start looking at advanced classes early on. Some of the coolest classes require planning of
prerequisites several semesters in advance. Make sure you get the pre-requisites done on
time to take the electives you want. Co-op and study abroad can limit your choices of
electives. Plan ahead. Talk with faculty about ‘focus areas’. Meet with the advisor and
attend advising meetings for help with planning.

Instructors
Get to know your instructors. They’re awesome people!! They enjoy teaching the topics
they are experts in. Instructors are a great resource for you - they can give references and
award nominations if they know you.

Friends
Find EE / CpE friends and take classes with them. When you move off campus having your
housemates as study partners is incredibly convenient. Keep tabs on your personal priorities.

Rumors
Do not listen to advice from friends or that you ‘heard from somewhere’ when it comes to
degree requirements. Consult handbook, catalog, degree requirements, or See/ e-mail the
advisor if you have a question.

Compilation of advice from ECE graduates, faculty and the advisor. jmd 5/22/2006