

TWENTY SUGGESTIONS:
AN OPEN LETTER TO FRESHMEN IN
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

The following suggestions were generated by students enrolled in Comm Tech. The comments are directed to newly enrolled freshmen in the Communication Technologies program, with the intention of improving the quality of their experience at UW-Platteville.

These recommendations are in no particular order.

1. Take your hands-on introductory classes early in your academic career.
2. Take computer classes early in your academic career.
3. Take the Career Exploration & Planning course.
4. Consider complementing your major with a second emphasis, a minor, or extracurricular activities.
5. Enroll in two or more Applied Communication courses to broaden yourself.
6. Intern as early as possible--and consider taking more than one internship.
7. When setting up your schedule, balance difficult classes with easy classes each semester.
8. Build a class schedule that includes a break during the day.
9. Be in control of your class schedule, work, extracurricular activities, etc.
10. Go to orientation sessions ... meet people, make friends, learn to network.
11. Get involved in extracurricular activities.
12. Seek out an upperclassman to serve as your mentor.
13. Meet with your academic advisor *more* than just once a semester (i.e., more than just to work on scheduling for the next semester).
14. Develop a multi-year "action plan" with your advisor. Build flexibility into your plan, and have a back-up plan.
15. Check the latest course rotation schedule (i.e., which courses are *tentatively* scheduled to be offered during the next 3-4 semesters).
16. When you *need* to study, consider going to the library to isolate yourself from distractions, roommates, friends, television, music, etc.
17. Understand that your grade point average is not the *most* important element in your college experience--but it *does* have its place.
18. *Go to class!*
19. Learn to value a well-rounded education.
20. Learn to value friendship.