

2026 SUMMER ORIENTATION



**UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS**

College of Engineering

**PARENT & SUPPORTERS
GUIDEBOOK**

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**

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Need access to the guidebook online?



UNIVERSITY OF
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A Message to Engineering Families



On behalf of our entire team, it is my honor and privilege to welcome your student to the University of Arkansas College of Engineering. Your student has worked hard to get here, and we are thrilled to have them as part of our Razorback engineering family. We know that choosing the right college is a significant decision, and we want you to feel confident that your student is in the right place. As a parent of two children with an engineering degree from the University of Arkansas, I understand many of the feelings you're having right now.

From day one, we have programs in place to support your student's success. Our First-Year Engineering Program is specifically designed to help new students build a strong academic foundation, find their footing, and connect with peers and mentors. Through Engineering One-Stop, your student has access to academic advising, coaching, peer mentoring, mental health counseling, scholarship support, and tutoring, all under one roof.

Our dedicated leadership team, including Kartik Balachandran, Associate Dean of Research; Kevin Hall, Associate Dean of Academics; and Bryan Hill, Associate Dean of Student Success, along with our outstanding faculty and staff, are personally committed to your student's growth, well-being, and success throughout their time on campus.

We are honored to partner with you in this journey. Together, we will help your student thrive.

— Kim LaScola Needy, Dean, College of Engineering

Supporting Your Student During and After 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.
- If your student received a temporary math override at orientation, make sure they confirm their test scores and/or transfer credit is on file before the July 31st deadline, otherwise they will be dropped from any courses they are missing a pre-requisite or co-requisite for.

Ways to Support Your Student During the Semester

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:

Acknowledge the transition

For many students, starting their higher education career is a significant change and coping with this transition will look different for everyone. Encourage your student to build and utilize their success network (peer mentors, faculty, staff, resources). Texts, notes, and care packages are just some ways to show your support from afar!

Help them identify their “why”

What is the core motivation for pursuing an engineering degree? Understanding their “why” can help students stay motivated when the going gets rough. If in doubt, ENGR Academic Coaching and ENGR Career Connections are excellent resources to help students understand their “why”.

Encourage self-sufficient skills

This is a leap of independence for many students and managing the rigor of curriculum and the freedom of time can be exciting and challenging. Encourage your student to practice self-advocacy by taking initiative for their needs, such as seeking tutoring, academic coaching, counseling, or scheduling office hours with professors when they’re unsure. Advocating for their own academic development is an important element of their success.

Promote the power of organization

The effective use of planners, schedules, and calendars are often overlooked tools for success. Keeping up with various coursework for multiple classes becomes overwhelming, very quickly. By encouraging them to make and keep a schedule, you are helping them take control, create balance, and avoid stress and burnout. ENGR Academic Coaching is an excellent resource for help with time management.

Ask more, guide less

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

What if life happens?

If your student experiences an extenuating circumstance that affects their academic progress, the Engineering One-Stop (EOS) team is here to provide individualized support. Please encourage your student to reach out to any of our EOS staff, or email eos@uark.edu. If your student is not in a position to connect to support on their own, please contact Dr. Bryan Hill, Associate Dean for Student Success at bwhill@uark.edu or 479-575-7236. Some example extenuating circumstances may be sudden illness or hospitalization, family emergencies, mental health crisis, etc. If a student is in immediate danger to self or others, call 9-1-1.

First-Year Engineering Program Overview

The First-Year Engineering Program (FEP) is a two-semester program required for all incoming students 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 real-world 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.

Introduction to Engineering I and II serve as the first-year experience courses at the University of Arkansas and take place of University Perspectives in the curriculum. With small class sizes, students enjoy personalized attention, fostering close relationships with both faculty members and peers. This setting allows for meaningful interactions, facilitating collaborative learning experiences.

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

All students are initially declared as **Engineering First-Year students**. This gives students time to explore different engineering disciplines before officially declaring a major. They will announce their major during a special celebration in **March**. After March, only students enrolled in **Calculus I** or a higher-level math course will have their major officially changed. Those taking **Precalculus** in the spring will have their major updated once they complete **Calculus I with a C or higher**.

We encourage students to explore the various engineering disciplines throughout the year to help guide their decision. You can learn more about each discipline on our website here, which will provide valuable insights as you start thinking about the field that interests you most.



Engineering One-Stop Overview

Engineering One-Stop (EOS) enhances student access to academic coaching, peer mentoring, academic advising, study abroad advising, career connections, and 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.

Advising

- Understanding requirements for majors and minors and academic policies
- Planning courses for future semesters
- Making changes to schedules, such as dropping or adding a class

Scholarship and Financial Aid Counseling

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

Coaching

- Individualized support with adjustment to college
- Developing and improving college-level study habits
- Managing time, priorities, and creating balance

Mentoring

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

Study Abroad Advising

- Discovering best study abroad programs for future goals
- Understanding the various funding opportunities available for study abroad
- Navigating applying and attending programs abroad

Career Connections

- Major and career exploration
- Preparing for job and graduate applications
- Professional development and networking events

Mental Health Counseling

- In-house mental health care services available in John White Engineering Hall
- Access to embedded clinician for initial consultations and counseling
- Connect with resources and strategies for short and long-term health

Coaching

Engineering Academic Coaches provide individualized academic support to students in the College of Engineering to improve student persistence and degree completion. Academic coaches offer services to build skills and self-advocacy by co-creating a success plan that considers life experiences, academic goals, and professional aspirations. Scheduled one-on-one appointments 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:

- Networking and Making Connections
- Effective Study Techniques
- Getting the most out of coursework and lectures
- Test Preparation
- Wellness and Balance
- Time Management
- Test Anxiety
- Navigating Campus Resources and Policies

Academic coaches can also connect students to appropriate services on campus, such as:

- Counseling and mental health services (CAPS)
- Tutoring and writing support (Student Success Center)
- Career guidance (Engineering Career Connections)
- Academic accommodations (Center for Educational Access - CEA)
- Off campus and community resources, including rental assistance, food pantries, etc.)

During Orientation, all First-Year Engineering students are required to schedule one Group Coaching meeting during orientation to be completed at the start of the fall semester. The purpose of Group Coaching is for students to connect with their peers, learn about academic coaching and available resources, and engage in discussions to prepare students for the curricular expectations of the fall semester. Group Coaching is a graded component of students' Fall GNEG course, hosted by the Academic Coaching staff.

Students who could benefit from academic coaching are encouraged to attend between 2-4 meetings throughout the semester, although meeting frequency will depend on students' individual goals. For more information, visit <https://engineering-one-stop.uark.edu/academic-coaching.php>

Mentoring

What is Peer Mentoring?

Our Peer mentors are upper-class engineering students who are trained and supervised by our Assistant Director of Mentoring and Engagement. Your student will be paired with a Peer Mentor through a matching survey they will complete this summer, and then will meet 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.

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!

Engineering Office of Career Connections

White Engineering Hall 307 | Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

engineering.uark.edu/student-experience/engineering-one-stop/career-connections.php

As parents and supporters, you 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 Engineering Career Connections Office.** Ask your student (in an off-handed way), "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 our career office's 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. The College of Engineering recognizes the value of participating in an internship and as a way to support that, students can enroll in an internship/cooperative education course to take alongside their experience.
- 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 for exploration and networking purposes.
- 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.
- **Engagement:** Various professional development and employer information sessions will occur throughout the academic year. A weekly newsletter will also detail upcoming events, sessions, and internships/jobs.

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 https://engineering.uark.edu/student-experience/engineering-one-stop/career-connections.php	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

<p>Mathematics and Resource Teaching Center mrtc.uark.edu</p>	<p>Provides support, tutoring and testing services and help within the realm of Mathematics</p>
<p>Pat Walker Health Center health.uark.edu</p>	<p>Immunizations, illness and injury treatment, lab & x-ray, wellness exams, allergy shots, women's health</p>
<p>Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) health.uark.edu/mental-health</p>	<p>Counseling, group therapy, mental health crisis intervention, and psychiatry</p>
<p>Veteran and Military-Affiliated Student Center vmvc.uark.edu</p>	<p>Campus resources and help with financial aid and scholarships for veterans, current service members, and dependents of veterans</p>
<p>Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education multicultural.uark.edu</p>	<p>Provides academic, cultural and social programs intended to promote inclusiveness, foster achievement and assist in the development and advancement of a diverse student body</p>
<p>U of A Cares uofacares.uark.edu</p>	<p>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</p>

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 5 or better
Memory	16GB+ RAM
Storage	1 TB 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	Bluetooth, Webcam, Microphone, Speakers, and USB-A port or adapter

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

ATTENTION: Laptops running Windows 11 operating system are highly recommended in all departments in Engineering but required in these departments.

Biomedical Engineering
Biological Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

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.

<https://its.uark.edu/communication-collaboration/office365/>

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.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Deadline for transcripts to be received for students granted a temporary math override.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

Encourage your student to attend Engineering Open House during the University of Arkansas's A-Week to meet faculty, staff, and peers and prepare for the first week of classes.

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.

<https://registrar.uark.edu/academic-dates/academic-semester-calendar/>

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

First day of classes

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Last day to add a full semester class or swap classes

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Last day to drop a full semester class without a "W" on transcript

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Labor Day, no classes

OCTOBER 12-13

Fall Break, no classes

NOVEMBER 22-27

Thanksgiving Break, no classes

DECEMBER 7-11

Final Exams

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

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

techstore.uark.edu

I M P O R T A N T D A T E S

Friday, July 31

Deadline for Math Overrides

Monday, August 10

1:00 - 3:00 pm

College of Engineering Open House

Monday, August 17

First Day of Classes

Friday, August 21

Last Day to add a full semester course or swap courses



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