



# BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

## FIRST YEAR

## SECOND YEAR

## THIRD YEAR

## FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

## CAREERS

### MILESTONES

- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 33 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5+.
- Take MATH 2414 in your first year.

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- Complete major foundation classes, such as Statics, Dynamics and Thermodynamics. Continue to take a math or engineering analysis class every semester.
- Complete 34 credit hours.

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- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Start thinking about your Senior Design project, assembling your team, and choosing the project. You may want to look at various national design competitions sponsored by professional societies such as ASME, SAMPE, SAE, and AIAA.

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.5+.
- "I have a plan for after graduation." If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center!
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.

### ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Attend the Freshman Mechanical Engineering convocation in the fall.
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about class.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.

- Join a professional organization such as: ASME, SAE, SWE, or SHPE. Participate in one of the student design competitions such as: Mini Baja, Aero Design, or Rocket Launching.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors on my.utrgv.edu!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available

- Seek out research opportunities within your major and join a professional organization such as: ASME, SAE, SWE, or SHPE.
- Check Degree Works to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internships. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your presentations.

- Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major. Consider replacing one of the three required 3-hour technical electives by taking MECE 3100 three times or taking MECE 3300 and satisfying associated requirements.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor that includes employment, finances, and other life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center to ensure you are on track.

### APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- Look for a service-learning course! For guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.

- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.

- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Use the writing center and produce good lab reports or become the secretary for your organization.

- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium, HESTEC, ASME, SHPE, or other society meetings.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

### GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g. MLK Day of Service).
- Join a student organization! Consider looking into SHPE or SWE or ASME or SAE or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.

- Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider going to Europe.
- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps ASME, SAE or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch-bring a friend!

- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, etc. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.

### LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger- locate and attend one student workshop.

- Update your resume in Handshake and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.

- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks' advance notice if you need a letter! Only ask for letters when you actually have an application that requires them.
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!

- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

- Machine design
- Systems design
- Manufacturing and production
- Energy conversion
- Energy resources
- Transportation and environmental impact
- Materials and structures
- Industries
  - Automotive
  - Aerospace
  - Electronics
  - Chemical products
  - Petroleum
  - Textiles
  - Industrial equipment
  - Heating and air conditioning systems
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Utility companies
- National laboratories
- Federal government:
  - Department of Energy
  - Department of Defense
  - Federal Aviation Administration

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out "What Can I Do With This Major?" [www.utrgv.edu/careercenter](http://www.utrgv.edu/careercenter)