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Purdue University

Current Status July 2017

Completed Freshman Year

Major

Civil Engineering

Minor

Naval Science

How would you rate your college experience so far?

5

What technical and study skills learned in high school were most valuable to you in your first year of college?

From high school I learned a lot about organization and planning when it came to studying and balancing my schedule. I also had the opportunity to learn some coding which I found was very helpful in my major.

What technical and study skills were most lacking in your first year of college?

One technical skill I found would have been helpful, but was definitely not necessary is using Microsoft Excel. It was a huge part of my first year engineering course, and although they give you a crash course on excel in the first weeks of school already having that knowledge would have made things a little bit easier.

What do you like most about your college experience so far?

So far some of my favorite parts of my college experience are having the opportunity to try so many new things. There are hundreds of clubs to join where you can meet tons of new people. I

also really enjoy being independent in a way I haven't been before. Living on your own can be challenging but I felt really prepared for it and I found it was nice to have a new sort of freedom. Probably the best part of my college experience would be getting to see first hand some of the jobs I might have in the future and how they can impact the community around me, and being one step closer to my future goals.

***Academically* - what, if anything, is frustrating or missing from your college experience so far?**

I had a tough time with my Math and Physics classes in college. My high school put a lot of emphasize on English classes and learning grammar and how to write well which is very important, but they seemed to lack that same intensity in the science department. As a result, I found myself struggling more in the sciences at the college level, then combine bad grades with being in a typically male dominated field and I began to lose some confidence in myself.

***Socially* - what, if anything, is frustrating or missing from your college experience so far?**

I haven't experienced anything frustrating socially at Purdue. There are so many different groups of people on campus that you just have to put yourself out there and find the right group for you. Through Naval ROTC and the women's club lacrosse team I found a variety of people, some who have become really great friends and even my roommates for next semester.

Any advice for high school students as they prepare for college applications?

College applications can be a really long process, but try not to stress out too much, you will find the school that fits you.

Any advice for students about to begin their college career in September?

Get excited, your first year of college is so much fun. I found it was hard to stay motivated all the time to do my homework and study for exams. You can get really caught up in the rush of your first semester, but don't forget the big picture because it's not just your first year of college it's the first year of your college career. So remember to work hard, but don't be afraid to have some fun every now and then. Once you find that balance between academics and your social life, you're golden.