

Galipatian Station

WHILE YOU PEE IN LEE

Friday Sept. 21-Friday Sept 28

COMPILER



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Professional Organizations



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Graduation! Jobs! No money! Do these things scare you? If not, they will in due time. We're all here to receive a diploma in whichever major becomes our passion, but if you have no connections by graduation, how will you obtain a job in your field as an engineer? Then, if you don't have a job—well, you get the point.



Professional organizations are created to solve these problems and more. Mostly, professional organizations exist for nearly every engineering major and can help you with earning scholarships, co-ops/internships, and you can be involved with them for the rest of your career.

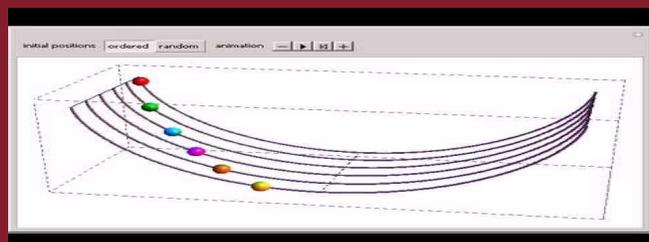
To put it simply, these organizations are usually nonprofit and solely exist to uplift their members in that profession. Various organizations give members exclusive online access to better careers or

articles, provide extraordinary networking opportunities, peers in your major, and so much more. Some examples of professional organizations on campus are: American Institute of Astronautics & Aeronautics (AIAA), Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), & Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). This is by no means an exhaustive list! You can also join organizations not on campus by going to their website! Here's a link to check out some that we have: <https://www.sec.vt.edu/Organizations.html#nsbe> but just search SEC VT Organizations.

The first step to joining an organization is to reach out to them through email and find out when their next event is! Once you're at the event, introduce yourself to the officers and talk with them about what you'd be interested in seeing and what great things they do.



Which of these marbles reaches the bottom first?



Undergraduate Research



Garrett Bimstefer
ESM
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There are many fascinating projects being developed at Virginia Tech. Almost every prevalent modern issue is being addressed by the brilliant minds at Virginia Tech. Alternative energy, artificial intelligence, space exploration, and bio-inspired engineering are just a few within the plethora of engineering research opportunities.

If this sounds interesting to you, undergraduate research is a great way to get involved in these intriguing ventures. You can find research centers and learn more about them online by simply googling “engineering research VT”. You will see links to the major engineering research labs as well as specific research labs for mechanical, aerospace, electrical, and many other engineering disciplines. Do some research and make a list of labs that intrigue you. All

labs should have a lead professor that you can contact to apply for a research position.

Contacting a professor can be a daunting task, trust me, I know. Nevertheless, you were wise enough to join Galipatia, so use the lessons learned from professional development to land that research position! Even if you believe that you do not have enough experience, try contacting professors anyway. They understand that everyone starts their career from the bottom, so be professional and be sure to convey your passion for their projects. Who knows? The professor may hire you based on your knowledge and passion of their research. The worst that can happen is you make the lead professor aware of your existence. Impress that professor with your improvement the next time you apply! By the way, all students at Virginia Tech have free access to classes at Lynda.com, so set some time aside to gain essential skills for your future engineering career. Get out there and make your presence known. Start your engineering career with the incredible opportunities available through undergraduate research at Virginia Tech!

Schedule Making Tools



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Here are some tools to help you put together the perfect schedule because getting the classes you want at times you want can be really difficult. Most of the classes you are taking are common classes that everyone in engineering or in your specific major take, leaving you with limited options when it comes to section times and professors. You might already know that from your classes this semester, but using the following resources will make life much easier in the future.

Course Request: Although this is an obvious one, it is important to emphasize that you take this seriously and start putting together your schedule. One thing to consider is requesting more credits/classes than you would ideally take because you might not get everything that you requested, but if you do and

decide that you don't want to take one of them, you can just drop it. I would not totally rely on course request as it is very random and you might have to redo the entire schedule, but you should still submit it because it can only benefit you.

Course Pickle: This website is your best friend when it comes to add/drop period. Most of you are probably already familiar with it, but here is how it works for those who aren't: When you want to add a course but all the seats are full, you can enter the CRN in Course Pickle and let it send you an email or a text when a seat opens up. The email option is free, but text is \$1 since it is faster. I have used it numerous times to avoid 8 am classes and certain professors.

Coursicle: This one is not as popular, but it is very similar to Course Pickle in that it can also notify you about open seats in a class along with some more features. For example, you can use the schedule maker to plan your schedule and show it on a calendar view. The notification service has a fee for each class.