

James M.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Current Status

January 2019: Completed sophomore year

Major

Electrical Engineering

Minor

No reply

How would you rate your college experience so far?

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

Knowing calculus and knowing how to use an arduino/breadboard/multimeter/electrical lab equipment.

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

Upper level calculus and physics topics (other students knew them better than me since they'd had exposure earlier).

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

The friends and engineering experiences I've made while being a member of my school's Formula Hybrid racing team. We got to hang out and have some fun while also building a full-size Formula-style race car!

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

Workload is larger than high school and professors are either a hit or miss. The professors (if bad) will hinder learning and require you to work harder!

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

To have a good social experience: join a club or some social group!! Leave time for friends! It's awkward and lonely at first (especially if you're far from home), but it will get better.

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

Have extracurricular experiences ready to talk about (robotics and beyond is excellent)! In all of your studies, you need something to distinguish you from the rest of the crowd. You do that through extracurriculars!

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

Be confident! It'll be a little (or a lot) scary going off to a new school potentially far away, but give it a week. You'll get adjusted to the new environment soon. My advice would be to make sure you find a club you're interested in. If you've ever wanted to try something new, but never had the time or ability to? Now you can! Get out there and go to all the events and clubs and find what you enjoy. Then you'll meet people with similar interests and it'll make everything a lot nicer. And with the workload, depending on the school and the class/professors: be ready for a lot of work! Time management is KEY in college. You have freedom, but remember to eat, sleep, shower, and finish your homework! For tests, find a group to study with! Everyone will be struggling alongside with you and it makes it less painful. Good luck!

How useful would this type of profile information have been for you, prior to starting college?

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Do you have any comments about these questions or our profile project?

No reply