

# Transitioning from College to the Workplace

- What It Was Like for me

## A little about me ...

- Grew up in Pullman
- Graduated in May 2021
- I work at SEL
- I have lots of hobbies that keep me busy outside of work.



1

# What does an engineer do?

Something ...

## What do I do every day?

Solve Problems

Research

Development

Evaluate Solutions

Find Problems

Debugging!

Learn!



Thinking

## What else do I do every day?

### Stand-up Meetings

- Work together with co-workers

- Ask for help

- Provide support

### Networking

- Getting to know co-workers

- And more ...

2

As an  
engineer do I  
get to work by  
myself?

Nope!

## What is my team like?

### College Team

5 people

All EE with power emphasis

One project with about 4 different parts

Project was about 10 months long

### Work Team

About 66 people

All different kinds of engineers + more

Too many parts to count!

A 2-3 year long project

3

I work on a  
team. I don't  
need to know  
everything.

Very true! But ...



**“I’ll never use what I’m learning in this  
class right now!”**

**- A classmate**

**I need to know it all?**

Yes and No.

On the job training

Not an expert in everything

Can ask for help

## Professor vs. Supervisor

Professor: You got 90% on the final! Good job!

Supervisor: What about the 10% of the time your design doesn't work?

# 4

**Professors are  
people.**

Why not get to know them?

## What did my professors do for me?

Taught me stuff  
Spent time to help  
me learn  
Gave me exams

*Employers*

*References*

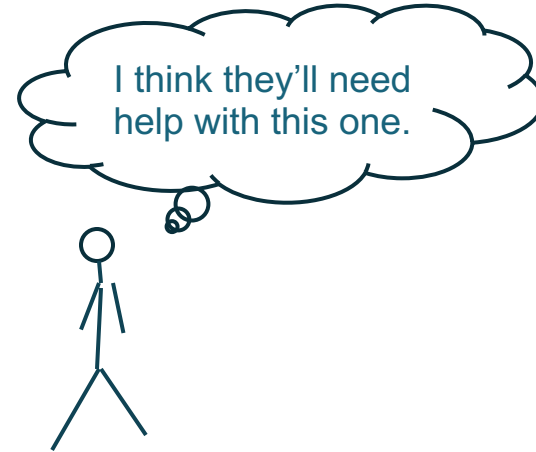
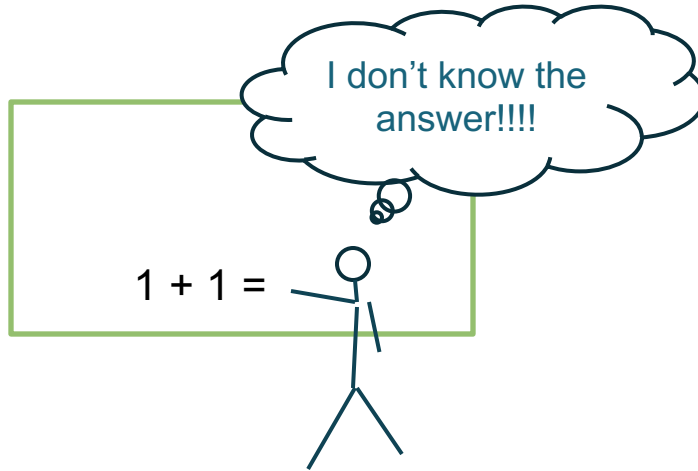
*Mentors*

*Friends*

# 5

## Interviews and Opportunities.

## Interview questions.



**Take advantage of  
opportunities!**

Interviews

Asking for  
help



My  
comfort  
zone

Going to  
office hours

Being a TA

Giving  
Presentations



Questions?

## References

Slide carnival for the slide template <https://www.slidescarnival.com/>.