

# Career Insights for Students

Real-World Stories & Advice from r/EngineeringStudents  
Community

Generated from user discussions regarding career paths, workplace dynamics, and professional growth.

# Chapter 1: The Transition (Student/Entry-Level)

## ***Are engineering career fairs just meant to be a humiliation ritual?***

Posted by u/OsamaBinLaden80085

I went to my university's engineering career fair today. I was talking to someone at one of the company booths. I informed him that I am looking for my first internship. He then proceeds to grill me and interrogate me on why I don't have any internship experience yet. I thought the whole point of internships was to get your first hands-on experience. Requiring previous experience seems like it defeats the whole purpose of an internship. These companies only want to hire interns to do their grunt work because they are too cheap to hire an actual engineer for it.

At another booth, the guy I spoke to seemed hungover and totally disinterested.

Like what the Hell is the point of all this? I thought civil engineering students were in such demand, yet everything I've experienced first hand seems to indicate that the field is oversaturated.

I think I'm just going to join the military or some shit once I graduate. I am not built for the corporate world, lol.

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## ***Your high school really does determines a lot for your college career***

Posted by u/izayah\_A

My highschool didn't have any AP tests or even calculus classes (the highest level math was pre-calculus) so I started my math at Uni in "College Algebra".

Now I'm in my early 20s doing Calc 3 with a bunch of 18-19 year olds that "just took calculus ab and bc in highschool". (I didn't even know what that meant until last year)

A little demoralizing. Like I'd kill to have a 2 year head start in math or physics :/

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## ***I attended my first career fair from the other side. AMA***

Posted by u/Pheonix402

Title basically.

I graduated from an engineering school in Texas at the end of 2023 with a job right out of college in the energy industry. After working for a little over a year I asked my company if I could go to my schools career fair with the recruiters and they let me.

I see a lot of things get bandied about by people, both doomer mentalities and overly optimistic that I'd give my perspective on if it comes up. The main one being: GPA absolutely (at my company) matters. It

isn't the end all, but it is heavy consideration.

People with otherwise lackluster resumes with really high GPA get more consideration conversely people with more experience than the former with low GPA get less consideration.

Lastly all opinions expressed are unique to my anecdotal experience at this one company. Your mileage may vary.

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### ***Career fairs seem to benefit companies more than students***

Posted by u/hederal

I feel that at 90% of universities, 90% of the time, there isn't a benefit to going to a career fair.

Your personality might make an impression on the recruiter, but they're just a recruiter and they seem so many students a day. They won't remember you.

Maybe it could be beneficial to bypass the AI filter slop most companies use, but any good resume in 2024 can easily do that.

I don't believe going to a career fair will net you any benefit over someone that didn't go with a better resume. I can't even say I think there's a benefit over people with the same level resume as you that didn't go.

Am I missing something?

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Edit: This isn't about me not getting internships. I've gotten 2 in the last 2 summers I've been in university. This isn't even me ranting, I just don't understand the hype behind career fairs

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### ***Why didn't anybody tell me playing golf would be so important in my career?***

Posted by u/ExchangePowerful5923

I have had my internship since freshman year and it is with a pretty big company. I have made connections with every person in there besides the corporate HQ folk. I cannot count on two hands how many individual times I have been invited to play golf with the higher ups. Shit I wish I had learned how to play because that alone appears to be a great opportunity. Should have been an undergraduate class for sure. Lean golf, you never know when you're going to use it as an icebreaker with the CEO.

Kinda sarcasm, kinda not...

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## ***Engineers who used to have bad grades and GPA, how was your career journey after graduation?***

Posted by u/spermwalker

i'm currently an industrial engineering student, who's been mainly getting all C's in all my STEM classes. it's discouraging to not be able to get higher than C's in my major courses. is it bad to get multiple C's and a low gpa? for those who had a similar struggle, did you ever land a stable job and career? i would like to know if i have some hope even if i don't get the greatest grades...

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## ***Is it worth talking to major corporations such as Lockheed and L3 at career fair?***

Posted by u/jbjgang2

Tomorrow my university is hosting a STEM career fair for engineering students. When I went last spring, I ended up spending a lot of time waiting in line to speak with big players in the engineering space such as Lockheed, L3, Honeywell, etc. Consequently, by the time I finished waiting in line and speaking with these employers, there was hardly any time for me to speak with the many other smaller employers at the fair. I mentioned this to some of my buddies with careers in engineering, and they advised me to not even waste my time speaking with these employers, that I'm much better off just applying online and attempting to make a connection with the smaller employers. When I spoke to the Lockheed recruiters last spring, they actually seemed to want to engage in conversation and hear what I had to say. When I spoke to L3, I gave them my pitch and it was kind of just like "uh huh, uh huh, next applicant" and felt like a major waste of time after waiting in line for 30 minutes. I'm interested in hearing what others think about this, is it really even worth it to speak with these major companies, or should I just apply online and spend my time elsewhere?

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## ***Anyone who graduated but did not pursue a career in engineering, where did you go?***

Posted by u/ViggeViking

I was unfortunately traumatized by my university experience and right now I can't consider a career in engineering because of low self-esteem, impostor syndrome and being an outsider.

I'm gonna need a new career, where I don't have to rely on my depressing background and I'm looking for inspiration, thanks in advance!

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## ***Ruined my academic career***

Posted by u/metalalchemist21

I have so much potential academically and scientifically but I am nothing short of an utter waste of it.

I would do the worst things imaginable just for a chance to restart even the past 5 years of my life.

It's like I have the ability to be a very strong student and start innovating things in science. I know that I do. But I am unable to get myself to do it

Shit like video games, porn, chasing a social life and trying to compensate for my lack of social life in the earlier parts of my life, all contributed to me being where I am now.

I'm sick of being mentally ill. I'm sick of having a mental illness that is misunderstood by like 95% of people and is misconstrued as being about being excessively clean (OCD).

I'm sick with myself. I really don't want to breathe for another second on this earth.

I'm 24 and still in Chem engineering and I am sick of all of it. I don't want to sign my life away to some plant to help them make materials for toothpaste or car batteries or mattress materials or any of that bullshit.

Why should I be doing that when things like cancer and mental illness still don't have viable or adequate treatments on a consistent basis?

I'm such a waste of potential. I'm fucking tired and done with this shit and I'm tired of overworking my mind ruminating on things like GPA that don't even define intelligence. Fuck this

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### ***How many engineering students actually want to work as an engineer for their whole career?***

Posted by u/CurrentlyInOrbit

How many of you actively WANT to work as an engineer versus hoping to enter another career path, or just being stuck with whatever job prospects engineering lands you? I'm not particularly passionate about engineering, but nothing else really excites me either and I believe it's a steady, somewhat interesting career path that will provide me with decent income and work life balance. I just can't imagine myself as an engineer 40 years down the road.

Edit: Thank you for all the responses! I know it's not realistic to plan my whole career out haha, I guess I still just struggle to even know what a career in engineering \*could\* look like since I haven't had an internship yet. I'm going to try and connect with some people with industry experience next semester to see if that will help me decide what I want to do after college.

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### ***I'm a senior engineer at a popular electric car company. AMA about career building, school, or becoming a competitive engineer***

Posted by u/Rhedogian

Back in undergrad I was really active on this sub and got tremendously good advice from some of the past AMA's by senior engineers and engineering recruiters on how to approach the career game, and I wanted to pay it forward by doing one of my own.

My background is in aerospace engineering, but my specialization is in systems engineering. Currently I'm 24. Here's my timeline:

20: Graduated with BSAE and 6 mos. internship experience

21: Started first full time position as an engineer I at Boeing, and started distance learning MSAE

22: Quit Boeing, moved to Northrop and got a promotion to engineer II

23: Finished MSAE, promoted to engineer III at Northrop

24: Quit northrop, hired on as a senior engineer at current company (rhymes with 'Bivian').

Ask me anything about applying to jobs, nailing interviews, playing the career game, motivations, why meaningless titles are given out like candy nowadays, or anything else!

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## ***Are skilled trades superior to pursuing an engineering career through university?***

Posted by u/PrinceOfDubai

Hello, fellow engineering students!

I'm a young Gen Z man halfway through my electrical engineering degree. Lately, I've been feeling uneasy after seeing so many headlines and hearing stories about how engineering roles are supposedly in decline. I keep coming across posts from recent grads struggling to find jobs, even after years of hard work.

Meanwhile, skilled trades seem to be booming. I constantly hear tradespeople discussing their job security, excellent pay and benefits, and how quickly they entered the workforce. The contrast is striking—engineering grads often sound burned out or discouraged, while tradespeople seem satisfied and stable.

It's made me wonder: Did I make the wrong choice? Should I have pursued an associate degree in advanced manufacturing, robotics, or mechatronics—something more direct and hands-on that could've launched me into the workforce faster?

For context, I enjoy both hands-on work and logical problem-solving. I'm actively involved in my university's IEEE chapter, where we regularly build projects from the ground up. We start with design and theory, apply engineering principles, and then dive into the wiring, testing, and implementation. That mix of brain and brawn is what I thrive on—I find it fun, meaningful, and fulfilling.

So, Reddit: Are these trends real? Are skilled trades in technology and engineering becoming a better, more stable path over university engineering?

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### ***I failed my degree, I am getting a diploma, is my career over?***

Posted by u/Informal-Host8085

I worked really hard for my master's degree in electronics and computer engineering at the university of birmingham but the course was really tough and I couldn't manage it, so I failed my degree and now I'm getting a diploma.

Am I cooked? I am absolutely devastated and don't now where to go from here. I've never been closer to suicide. Is a diploma worth anything? Can i still build my skills and land a good job? Asking for a real advice here. ■■

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### ***The timeline of my engineering student career relative to everyone else's college career.***

Posted by u/Lace\_Windu

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***Does anyone else wish they could just get paid to be in school as a career?***

Posted by u/errememberderdnit

So I graduated this past May. The only thing I didn't like about school was the fact that, since I was also working, it was like working two jobs and only getting paid for one of them. I was busy all the time but only making a part-time salary. I like my new job, but I miss the challenge and learning that I had in school. I finally got a project recently that involves learning some complex mathematical concepts and using all that calculus I learned, but I can tell that projects like this are going to be rare. It makes me miss studying sorta. I wish I could do this full time but still get paid well and have my nights and weekends free.

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### ***We're CDAC Pune alumni who cracked CCAT and landed great jobs. Ask us anything about CDAC, CCAT prep, or IT careers!***

Posted by u/Virtual-Pie-8263

We are two engineering grads and alumni of **\*\*CDAC ACTS Pune\*\***, one of the top centres for advanced IT training in India. We cleared the **\*\*CDAC CCAT exam\*\*** with top ranks and went on to build strong careers in software engineering. Now we're here to share our experiences with you.

In this AMA, we'd love to answer your questions about:

- What is the CDAC CCAT exam?
- Is CDAC worth it after B.Tech?
- How to prepare effectively?
- Placement scenarios (myths vs facts)
- Career growth after CDAC

We've also created a **\*\*free resource platform\*\*** to help aspirants prepare better for the CCAT exam, based on our experiences.

Visit our website- <https://ccatwiz.com>

So go ahead - **\*\*Ask Us Anything!\*\***

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### ***Having a low GPA is like being a felon***

Posted by u/Key-Drop-7972

It has destroyed my future in ways I can't even fathom. I have already been told I can't get into grad school. Academic advisor said it would take 2 years to raise my GPA. I don't have 2 years to put my career and dreams of a family on hold. I have already seen SOOOOOOOO many internships that I WOULD be able to qualify for if they didn't have that horrible 3.0 GPA requirement. Even small, local companies have a 3.0 GPA requirement. No internship. No hope of decent paying job.

I try my absolute DAMNDEST to network and make connections and do extracurriculars but it's all meaningless because I don't have an internship under my belt. All because I don't have a "good" GPA. Companies stupidly assume I'm too dumb to tie my own shoes just because of a NUMBER.

And I get it!!! Engineering is super competitive because so many people want to be one and it requires a lot of knowledge. I get it. But the RIDICULOUS difficulty of being bad grades expunged makes an unfair challenge for students trying to turn their lives around.

It's like having an ankle monitor on. Not being able to do anything to really improve my life because of the ugly mark of having a low GPA holding me back. My life is pretty much ruined because of silly mistakes I made early in college. I have to pay for my biggest regret for the rest of my life.

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### ***Can a minor degree that doesn't correlate with your career plan actually help you?***

Posted by u/Equivalent\_Phrase\_25

I'm not taking a minor but my friend is.



We are both in mechanical engineering but he's taking a minor in history. He only has to take a few classes for that so it's not like a really hard thing for him to get.

I was wondering if it will impact anything? Like maybe better chance to get internship idk.

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***I'm a graduating senior. This just about sums up my college career.***

Posted by u/GoT\_Eagles

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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***Is Electrical Engineering for me? Will it help me reach my goals? (22 year old, need career advice please)***

Posted by u/Civil-Syllabub8553

**\*\*Hi! Long story short, I'm 22 years old, since I graduated high school I've been working on some social media business, had a good run, made about \$one million dollars (good foundation but not f u money), & now looking towards college (maybe EE) to get a more stable career.\*\***

Honestly I don't have a dying passion for any particular field, I just want something that can get me a upper middle class income, like 200k+ in a fast manner especially since I'm starting late. I've had my eyes set on EE for a number of reasons. CS market is saturated as many of my friends are having trouble getting their foot in the door, finance is cool as I like learning about markets, however high finance only recruit from select schools and largely based on nepotism and social networking/clubs (not really a bet I wanna make, being reliant on others, and especially being a older student it might be hard getting fully involved in social clubs). Lawyers & doctors & dentists get paid well but I'm not tryna be in school for that long, especially starting late already. By process of elimination, I'm sorta left with EE, I don't know what else I could do that can maybe get me a upper middle class salary (200k+) with a 4 year degree.

I must admit I don't have a dying passion for EE like some other people. I did alright in high school, took math up to AP Calculus AB & AP Stats got As/Bs, perfect score on sat math, top ten percent of class, although that was like 4/5 years ago so I've been out of the game for a while. Have some self doubt about my current abilities especially reading how difficult a EE degree is.

I've also heard mixed opinions on the income potential with a EE degree as I've heard people say EE's are super smart/disciplined which makes them super valuable & management or consulting engineering roles can get you like 300k a year, but I've also heard flipside that EE is severely underpaid compared to the difficulty of the degree and many cap out without ever hitting 200k in their lifetime. I don't mind working hard as long as there is a ROI, but I've heard mixed information, clarity would be nice.

**\*\*4 questions:\*\***

**\*\*1.** You can see how I'm choosing an EE degree by process of elimination, but do you guys have any other degree suggestions for me given my goal?**\*\***

**\*\*2.** Are you guys satisfied with how much your are paid? I understand NOT everyone is financially ambitious, but at least is there the potential to make a high income? Or do you feel like your EE degree is limiting you (do you think you would've been better off with something else)?**\*\***

**\*\*3.** This might sound like a joke but concern... Will all my classes be filled with nerdy types and almost all just guys? Finding a long term partner is important to me in the next four years, and I'm assuming my social life and such would mostly come from my college classes. But seeing the stereotypes about EE it's not looking attractive to me. Any opinions on this?**\*\***

**\*\*4.** Any general advice from folks.**\*\***

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***What am I doing wrong? Junior Mech E trying to get an internship to no avail, been to conferences, career fairs, had my resume reviewed many times, and still no luck at all.***

Posted by u/HK9009

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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***IAMA Fortune 200 engineering company recruiter, interviewer, and engineer. AMA about career fairs, intern/full-time interviews, resumes, and general prep for landing your dream engineering job.***

Posted by u/Eng\_recruiter

I am an engineer at a very large engineering firm based in America and also spend a significant amount of time every Fall recruiting students like you. I visit 10-12 college campuses a year for career fairs and on-campus interviews to find interns and new college grads for my company. I'm happy to help you prep for that elevator speech to the recruiter or get some background info on what interviewers are looking for when you sit down.

Edit1: Great questions so far! I am at Uofl today for their career fair. I'll hop back on this evening and answer some more questions. Stay tuned.

Edit2: I have had a few resume review requests. Send me a PM with a google doc link and I will do my best to get to it in the next few days.

Edit3: I love how successful this has been! I'm still in and out and can answer questions. I've had a few PMs with questions. Ask these in the thread instead of messaging me if you can. That way everyone can see answers.

Edit4: To the redditor who gifted me gold, thank you so much! I want to demystify the hiring process as much as possible and I'm glad you got some benefit out of this.

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## ***Regrets during your degree/career?***

Posted by u/Sea\_Register7791

What are some choices that you regret during career?

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## ***A high paying career path you may not know about in nuclear***

Posted by u/mc\_squared180

I just wanted to provide some information I wish I had known earlier about an unconventional career path for engineers in nuclear with significantly higher income potential than traditional engineering.

Nuclear power plants have several qualification levels for operators.

Non-licensed operator aka auxiliary equipment operator aka plant operator (NLO/AEO/PO)

Reactor operator (RO)

Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) (requires engineering degree or 2 years RO experience)

While the NLO position only requires a 2 year tech degree typically, plants will hire engineers for this with the expectation they will move up towards the SRO role eventually.

The thing is, NLOs make ~\$80k during the 9 month initial training (classroom) and well over 100k when qualified. Possibly up to \$180k with a lot of overtime if desired.

Pros

- High income potential
- High quality training that actually teaches you to do your job
- clear and encouraged path to promote within
- not a desk job, hands on work (pro for me, maybe a con for some)
- union position (pro for me, maybe con for some)

Cons

- shift work
- not really 'engineering' work if that's what you want

Just wanted to put this out as an option you may not have known about If you live near or want to live near a nuclear plant.

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### ***Just graduated and already feel confident I don't want a career in Engineering.***

Posted by u/Coreyahno30

I'm about 2 weeks out from finishing my bachelors in Computer Engineering. Now that the dust has started to settle, I find myself happy all of those classes are behind me. I originally planned to roll right into a Masters, but now I have zero desire to go back to learning about these things I feel I've lost interest in. I already have a job lined up that I'm starting next month, and I know in the current market I'm extremely fortunate to have landed a job so quickly, but the last year or so has burned me out so completely that I'm already dreading my first day of work. I'm dreading the idea of doing that job.

Is it normal to be so burned out after finishing an engineering degree that you're just flat out sick of engineering? I don't know if this is a normal feeling that will fade, but honestly right now I'm thinking I'll just use my engineering career to fund my way to becoming a commercial pilot.

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### ***What engineers careers should I study??***

Posted by u/Spiritual\_Package517

I'm in grade 10 in alberta Canada. What engineers careers will be needed the best 5 years and which ones have great pay. And is Petroleum engineering good??

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### ***Advice to those early on in their academic careers***

Posted by u/MadLadChad\_

Hope this re-post is welcome, wanted to catch the fellows about to start their first semester.

Here she is:

As I have come to my final semester this fall in mechanical engineering, I have some thoughts on how I would advise my younger self, given the opportunity.

Get heavily involved in technical clubs early on. FSAE is a good example. In these environments, you can gain years of part-time technical experience before entering the workforce. Learning how to collaborate within teams and across disciplines. This experience is invaluable and one of the best investments you can make with your time. Experiences like these will build your CV, making your odds of landing your first internship earlier on more likely.

**\*\*Do not wait for your school to introduce skills/software/languages to you\*\*.** For my school, our first and only CAD class is in junior year. If you'd like to land 2 or even 3 internships, waiting that long for core skills is not a great plan. Consider checking out the job descriptions for positions you are

interested in, and see what skills they list.

A great use of your summers, given you are not working an internship, is to do some personal projects that use the core technical skills that you need, and that excite you. Mixing in fun projects with the difficult/soul-sucking coursework you may encounter might balance things out, and remind you why you're going through the difficulties. In addition, make sure to document those projects and any relevant metrics; this will be key for building a project portfolio.

Nowadays, a good GPA simply is not enough to land an internship. You need to come to the table with technical skills that you have not been taught at school yet. The internet and LLMs have provided us with the accelerated ability to teach ourselves new skills, use that opportunity.

GPA is not everything. Mine was shit, so I simply left it off my resume. I was rarely asked about it in interviews and went 4/40 offers/apps in my only application season so far, which I solely attribute to a good project portfolio. For ME, a great example is in Tameer Shaheen's video on project portfolios.

Make sure to have fun, and make a few strong connections - people that you will keep in touch with long term, people that you will invite to your wedding.

Edit: One thing I did not mention in my first post is networking, this is because it is something I did not do well and was not integral to my success. However, I do not mean to give any impression that this is in any way unimportant. I have heard of folks who got recommendations based on a single study session with a fellow classmate, and it worked out well for them. With that anecdote in mind, it's probably a great idea to get a few classmates in every semester that you study with; this might be an easy way to gain a network outside of clubs.

If you made it this far, thanks for reading. I hope the message served you well. Best of luck

SHOUTOUT TO r/EngineeringResumes the wiki is insanely helpful

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### ***Mid 30s career changer seeking advice.***

Posted by u/devdestruction89

Hello all,

I am a 36 year old software engineer with around 8 years experience. I'm currently working as a lead engineer in the financial services industry. I have a BS in computer science and an MBA in IT management. I make around 140k a year.

I really want to get out of the software game and IT in general. I've grown so tired of just doing boring feature work sprint after sprint. It feels so meaningless and pointless. I don't work on anything interesting or challenging. I just do ticket after ticket, code review after code review for features that will be replaced in a year anyway when priorities change. I'm also really growing even more disillusioned with the endless AI hype, the constant threat of outsourcing/offshoring/nearshoring. Literally the only good thing about my job is that it pays well and I never work overtime.

Long story short, I would really like to stay in STEM, so I've been thinking about pivoting to engineering, either mechanical or civil. I was accepted to University of Alabama's online ABET accredited BS in ME

and University of North Dakota's online ABET accredited BS in CE. Both of these programs will allow me to continue working over the next few years while I finish.

I have several concerns:

1. I'm seeing a lot of fresh graduates are struggling to find work. I am worried I'll invest the time and money into this and then I will not be able to find a job as an engineer.
2. I will definitely be taking a massive pay cut once I do find an engineering job. I am concerned I may have rose colored glasses about what it will be like to work as an engineer. I'd hate to end up in the same spot feeling the way that I feel now, only poorer.

Has anyone here made such a move? Can anyone offer some advice?

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### ***Recent EE Grads Regretting Their First Job/Career?***

Posted by u/DerpyAssassin13

I'm finishing up my EE bachelors this December and will luckily have the opportunity to choose from two different entry-level jobs in power. One is for Transmission Line Engineering at a defense company and the other is for Engineering Electrical Systems at an EPC company.

I'm torn between the two because the pay/health benefits/401k are slightly better at the defense company but that comes with the role of entering that niche role. The PTO given by the EPC is essentially 3+ weeks more and the scope of work is much larger leading to more project exposure.

It's also noted that Transmission Line Engineering isn't restricted to Electrical but can be entered by Civil/Structural/Mechanical and depending on the company, any engineering degree which kind of makes it feel less enticing as a career.

Have any recent EE grads who went into power regret going into a niche like Transmission as opposed to staying general and getting more exposure?

If it helps, companies are Leidos & Zachry Group respectively.

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### ***Beginning to feel like a fraud and am worried about career potential***

Posted by u/RCTHROWAWAY\_69

I'm 27 years old, and am in school for my second undergrad degree; Mechanical Engineering. I got a business degree in 2019 and realized quickly that I hate everything in the business world (like office politics). I know that I'll have to deal with that shit even as an engineer, but at least I'd be doing something I enjoy.

I've always been good at math and building. My grandfather owns a wood shop and I've always been into woodworking and small engine mechanics. I love 3D printing and design, and just like making shit.

I go to Colorado School of Mines. I'm in my 3rd year and there are some brilliant engineers here. That, I was prepared for. By no means did I ever think I'd be the smartest person in the room, and these 20 year olds got a huge head start in there engineering knowledge.

But holy hell do I feel inadequate sometimes. I *\*thought\** I was good at math. Ive always gotten good grades without having to worry too much about not understanding the material. But the way some of these kids fly through material is insane. I study with my peers a lot, and they often explain the concepts in ways that sound so intuitive to them, that I hadn't even thought to consider.

I don't know if it's actual concern or my ego talking, but if this is what I have to compete with in the job market, I'm a little worried.

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### ***PSU Energy Engineer Fall Graduation Career Hunt***

Posted by u/Multivariable\_log

I'm very grateful for getting these opportunities. I genuinely have to give Penn State a lot of credit for its network—every offer I got was from a company I met at the PSU career fair.

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### ***Clubs/Internships for Second-Career Students***

Posted by u/CupcakeHuman7187

Are clubs and internships as important for second-career students compared to those who are doing this as their first career? I understand these 2 things help you get experience in the field while developing soft skills, but for those of us going to engineering school to begin a second career, we've already developed a lot of these soft and interpersonal skills. I'm not trying to say we're above it, but I'm just wondering how much we should focus on these versus going all in with classes for when it comes to jobs after graduation? And does having this previous work and life experience help with internships if they are in fact needed?

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### ***Is a robotics and AI PhD (R&D;) a good career move?***

Posted by u/adad239\_

I'm currently an undergrad double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, with about 8 months left before I graduate. Lately I've been thinking about doing a master's and eventually a PhD focused on AI and robotics.

My main goal is to go into R&D;, working on advanced robotics, intelligent systems, and cutting-edge technology. This kind of career genuinely interests me, and I really like the idea of being part of the

teams that design and build the systems driving all this progress.

That said, I'm starting to wonder if it's still worth the time it takes. A master's and PhD can easily take 6 to 8 years, and AI is evolving so fast that by the time I finish, the industry might look completely different.

I keep thinking that R&D; might be one of the safer career paths, since those people actually create and understand the technology better than anyone else, but I'm not sure if that's true or just wishful thinking.

So I'm curious what people in research or industry think. Is it still worth pursuing the grad school route if I want to end up doing R&D; in AI and robotics? Or would it make more sense to go straight into industry and learn on the job?

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## ***Aerospace Career Advice***

Posted by u/Savart861

Hi all,

I have always been fascinated with flight and hope to work in Aerospace industry one day. I am graduating with a BS in ME. I hold a job offer with a major aerospace company, and masters programs acceptances in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Georgia Tech. The masters degree with thesis from GT has been a life goal for a while, but I am having difficulty acquiring funding, and cannot go into debt for it.

Firstly, for my goals, would you recommend I do the MS AE or MS ME? As much as I want to work in Aerospace, I do fear pigeon holing myself into one career path, and I wonder if the AE masters would eliminate me from non aerospace related jobs.

Second, will it benefit me more for my career path if I just take the job/would the masters be worth my time from a career perspective?

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## ***People who've gotten their master's or PhD: how has that changed your career?***

Posted by u/TheLifeOfRichard

So many of the comments I see under posts about whether or not another degree is worth it come from people currently studying to get their master's or PhD. People who've finished: was it worth it for you? Why did you choose to go back to school to begin with? Do you wish you'd done your master's/PhD earlier?

Personally I just finished my undergrad in May of this year and I'm working in automotive. I want to do R&D; but I've gotten conflicting answers as to how necessary a master's is for me and what I want to do.



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## ***My ECE friends struggled to find jobs, so I built them a careers resource to crack ECE interviews***

Posted by u/ckulkarni

\*Context: My college friends struggled with FAANG hardware/electronics technical interviews. After exploring more, I noticed that early-career engineers failed in interviews since they simply don't know what to expect.\*

In response, I decided to create [VoltageLearning.com](http://voltagelearning.com/)

How it works -

- \* Practice verified technical and behavioral interview questions vetted by from employees at top companies (NVIDIA, Apple, Google, etc)
- \* Complete short exercises, testing conceptual and design-based engineering skills (sorted by beginner, intermediate, advanced).
- \* Practice mock interviews with Interview Simulator
- \* Brush up on content with sprint-type lessons
- \* Complete dashboard view for progress tracking

Pretty simple setup. I've leveraged my tech network and built this with input from my friends with 300+ users signed up.

View our project here -> [VoltageLearning.com](http://voltagelearning.com/)

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## ***I quit a good career at 28 to go back to school for Mechanical Engineering. I'm going to graduate in December and I have 2 job offers. If I can do it so can you!***

Posted by u/basicallycharlieday

Good luck future engineers! Stay hungry and focused! I love all of you!

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## ***Career Fairs 101, from a recent grad***

Posted by u/MisterMH

Hi all,

As a recent grad, I've been through my fair share of career fairs and have a lot of experience/advice that I would love to share with other students. I wrote this article in the hopes that it would reach someone who, like me, struggled in their search for their first or next internship.

## **\*\*Introduction\*\***

Invoking the words 'career fair' or 'internship fair' to an engineering student can evoke a number of emotions: dread, fear, resignation. I haven't met a single colleague or classmate who has actively looked forward to a campus career fair, and for fair reason. At UCLA, fall career fairs have often consisted of thousands of students, dressed in business formal, packing into a hot ballroom and waiting sometimes up to an hour for a 30-second pitch.

At the same time, most engineering students are familiar with the black hole of applying online: you upload your resume and then never hear back. A quick Google search shows that up to 85% of jobs are filled through networking. Career fairs are the most efficient way to convert applications to interviews: all the benefits of networking sans small talk.

As an undergraduate with an unremarkable resume, I found few successes with online applications. The only interviews I ever received were through the career fairs and info-sessions; I believe having the right credentials is 20% of the battle, with the other 80% of the battle selling yourself and your skill-set. Following this rubric didn't mean I had offers falling in my lap, but it at least got me past the recruiter and landed me phone interviews with Northrop Grumman, Ball Aerospace, Lockheed Martin, L-3, and SSL. And it can for you, too!

Note that this is not the definitive way to navigate career fairs or develop a pitch: this is just my experience. Nevertheless, I hope you find something useful in the following article.

## **\*\*The Salesperson's Mindset\*\***

I want to take a second to talk about the mindset of the pitch. All of the companies in attendance are looking to make an investment. You are both the salesperson and the product, but at career fairs, you have companies receiving hundreds of proposals and all the products are (at least at the undergraduate level) more or less the same. At this scale, the key differentiating quality is your communication skills. Summed up in a few words: \_keep it relevant, and keep it concise.\_

Relevance is extremely important: every single sentence should relate back to the company's immediate needs. It's okay not to have a perfectly-aligned resume for an internship; most student projects/research groups involve soft skills like cross-disciplinary work, client management, multi-tasking, etc. All of these are marketable and relevant – you just have to sell it!

Along the same lines, concision is absolutely critical. Your pitch is an highlight reel, not a comprehensive presentation. It's not essential to stick to 30 seconds – feel free to go a little over, but the longer you talk, the longer you run the risk of losing the recruiter. If the recruiter starts looking bored or trying to interrupt, that's your signal to cut it short.

## **\*\*Preparation\*\***

Too many students come in a superficial view of the company's goals, products and business areas. This is my tried-and-true method of doing my research prior to the fair:

1. Narrow the list of companies down to 5-8 based on your preferred interest and the company's hiring availability. I would recommend doing this a couple days before the fair, because often companies will post their internship listings just prior to the fair. (One career fair, I did my research the morning of the fair, and noticed that L-3 had posted an internship requisition that very morning, which I noted. Later that afternoon, when I spoke with the L-3 rep, I mentioned I was interested in that position. Would you

believe that she was the one who had posted it the day before? That turned out to be my first interview!)

2. From those 5-8 companies, jot down on a notepad the following for each company: biggest company events in the last 6 months, core product lines (typically 3-4 most relevant to you and 1-2 products per platform) and jobs you are interested in. This information is critical as it will be what you to refer to in your post-pitch chat.

3. Apply for at least one of those jobs per company! This is critical – recruiters love to hear that you've already applied. It shows initiative, and seeing as many companies hold interviews take place just a few days after, it leaves a good impression.

**\*\*Making the most of those 2 minutes with the recruiter\*\***

So, you've made it to your career fair, and you're waiting in a long line to get your chance to talk to Google or Lockheed Martin. Now I'll walk you through an example of a pitch I've given and why (I think) it's worked. This was for a Systems Engineering position that Boeing posted a while back that wanted candidates with MATLAB competency, as well as some experience working in integration and testing of aerospace systems.

>Hi, my name is John Doe, I'm a fourth-year aerospace engineering student, and I would love to talk to you about your Systems Engineering position.

Don't forget your fundamentals: open with a strong handshake, a smile, good posture, and a quick 5-second introduction about who you are and what you're interested in.

>In terms of my relevant background, at my internship at [Aerospace Company], my role spanned test, evaluation and integration of MEMS devices. I was responsible for setting up and executing high-temperature tests on gyroscopes, as well as examining the test data and writing brief reports for our client.

>I also worked as the trajectory engineer on my rocketry capstone project where I focused on developing a trajectory analysis algorithm. The algorithm was used to generate velocity and altitude plots of our rocket based on unique flight conditions: initial angle-of-attack, drag coefficients, payload and launch mass, etc.

This is the meat of your pitch. This is where you discuss how their current needs align with your skillset. Even if your entire resume is a good fit, stick with 2, 3 items tops and focus on your highlights and responsibilities. Don't worry if you can't cover every little detail - if they're interested in other items or would like follow-up on a specific resume item, the recruiter will ask you.

In my experience, recruiters place importance on internships, then hands-on projects, then research, and finally leadership experience. As an underclassman, you might be relying more on hands-on projects and leadership experience, which is fine – just sell it!

>I think the combination of my internship experience and the work on my spacecraft design project make me a strong candidate for your position.

This closing line slightly alludes to what I mentioned earlier about aligning yourself to their needs.

Be cognizant of who you are talking to. If you are talking to a chief engineer, or a project manager, feel free to dive into a little more technical detail during your pitch but keep it brief. But if you're talking to an

HR rep, keep the technical details at a high-level because you don't want to lose them with technical details. Along the same lines, don't be afraid to add a little personality! These recruiters listen to hundreds of pitches a day so play your personality up. If you are a jokester, make a couple jokes. If you're passionate about a certain project, let that passion show.

You might be wondering why you needed to do all that research prior to the fair if your pitch covers only your background and a job position. You need the company information for the follow-up questions, where the recruiter will likely dig past the rehearsed pitch. It's very common to be asked "What do you know about our company?" as one of the first follow-up questions to the pitch, and this is where most students falter, as they have scant understanding of what the company does. This is really where you can shine as a candidate and move yourself into interview consideration, if you can align the company's direction and competencies with your resume.

#### **\*\*Post-Career Fair\*\***

Congratulations! You made it through the most difficult part of the career fair process, and your work is almost done.

+ If a recruiter tells you to apply online, that does not mean your effort is wasted! Quite the contrary – many companies, especially in the aerospace industry, require candidates to submit an application online before they can be considered for any position. To be clear: \_You cannot be considered for an internship without having submitted an online application!\_ For example, I have been told after a pitch to the LinQuest Corporation to apply online, and not 24 hours after my online application did I get an email from the company requesting a phone interview. Make that online application your #1 priority!

+ If you managed to procure any business cards, follow up with the recruiter especially if you feel good about your pitch. As with any professional correspondence, keep the email brief and to the point!

#### **\*\*Conclusion\*\***

Career fairs are not easy. You will sound awkward, you will slip, you might mispronounce the company name, or even accidentally refer to them by another company name (likely why I got nowhere with AeroVironment). What you have just read ahead may not be your style; maybe you prefer applying online. However, in my opinion, career fairs are the most efficient use of your time and a much-faster way to get your resume to the decision-makers. I hope that you found this article helpful, and if you have any questions feel free to reach out! I wish you all the best of luck on your professional ventures!

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### ***Should I switch from CS to ME or 'EE' for a career in robotics?***

Posted by u/No\_Rule674

Hi there, I've recently started my Bachelor's in Computer Science, but feel really insecure still about my choice. I'm mainly considered in robotics/drone/aerospace technology, and therefore I've considered switching my undergrad to either Mechanical Engineering with specialisation in Machine Construction or Industrial Operation and Maintenance. The other option would either be Electronic System Engineer with a specialisation in Embedded Wireless Smart Sensors, Embedded Wireless Systems, or Embedded Advanced Sensor Systems. The last option would be Automation and Intelligent Systems

with a specialisation in Robotics and Cybernetics.

It would maybe seem obvious to choose Robotics and Cybernetics, however the country I current reside in is one of the only countries that really recognises Cybernetics (Which I believe corresponds to Control Theory in traditional?). With the possible option for immigrating later I'm not sure if it would be smart to study something that won't be really recognised. The University I study at does not offer traditional Electrical Engineering, so these two are only sub-fields of what was once their Electrical Engineering course.

Would love to hear some past and current experience from students to see what would be best to do in my situation. I've also read that Mechatronics could be good, however apparently that companies prefer the traditional path as ME or EE.

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### ***I'm terrible at career fairs***

Posted by u/Virtual-Transition90

So I just went to my universities career fair today. I am a first year, studying biological engineering, specifically bio-med. I was hoping/planning on finding a job/internship for the summer that would pay reasonably well and be useful towards a career. But it went horribly. This is probably my own fault, I have autism and I'm really, really not good with new people, large crowds and situations I've never been in. Last night was a supposedly more informal networking night. I talked to bp and micron asked them a bunch of questions even tho I was awkward, and they encouraged me to come to the career fair, I had half a mind to skip it. Normally I would apply for a job on indeed, get a interview for a couple jobs and spend days ahead of time preparing for the interview so I could interact correctly. Even then I do much better with more informal stuff.

Am I screwed, do I have any reasonable hope of getting a decent job/career with this whole college thing? What should I do? I spent the first couple years of my life just working, and that's what I'm familiar with. I have no idea how to interact in a white-collar academic world, even if I do well in school.

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### ***Career Fair Swag?***

Posted by u/govnorisy

I want to know, what career fair "swag" do engineering students actually want nowadays? I work in civil engineering and my boss was curious of what new swag we should order for the next season of career fairs. My favorites from my last few career fairs were (all branded) travel hand sanitizer and a mini tape measure. (Sorry if wrong flair is used)

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## ***Career Advice Rant/Suggestions for Masters***

Posted by u/CandyHuman4375

Hi, I graduated with a BS in Aerospace Engineering last December, but have had no luck at landing an entry-level position. The amount of rejections and failed interviews really pierces my confidence and competence in the field. My career ambition is to become a flight test engineer for a defense manufacturer but its so hard to make myself stand out with no internship experience. I have research and senior capstone projects to flex about but alot of companies shun me down for not having professional experience. How can I get any if no one is willing to give me a chance?

If masters is the best option for me, would yall suggest I go back for masters in aerospace engineering or another field. I am also open to join the air force or navy as an aircraft engineer but I dont know much about that route.

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## ***Built something to help engineering majors figure out career options***

Posted by u/findyourstream

The job market is rough right now and kind of a shitshow. Every year is a little worse it seems like.

Hopefully I can help someone out by sharing a tool I built after going through all this myself (and seeing friends and current students also go through the same experiences). After struggling through my own career difficulties after graduating, I realized there were basically no tools out there that actually helped. Career center quizzes were useless and existing career sites were outdated, like to the point where every role is listed alphabetically.

So I decided to take things into my own hands and build something that could genuinely help. It's a tool based on real data that shows you \*real\* career possibilities in the job market tailored to you in terms of skills, interests, and values. It is NOT an LLM wrapper.

If this sounds useful, sign up here: [findyour.stream](http://findyour.stream/?source=redditengineeringstudents)

It's still an early version, so I'm mostly trying to see if people would actually find this sort of thing helpful. Honest feedback is super welcome. And if you want to stay in the loop as I add new features (like cross-industry exploration and grad school vs. industry cost benefit analysis), feel free to sign up with your email.

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## ***Can you survive the Engineering career without an FE or an EIT license?***

Posted by u/FinePromotion2877

Hey everyone,

I'm about to start senior design 2 this semester and planning to graduate this fall. I had a quick question—how important is it to take the FE or get your EIT certification? Can you still land a solid job or build a career without it, or is it something you pretty much have to do? Just trying to figure out if it's worth the time and effort right now.

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### ***My Fiancé is between career paths-help him out?***

Posted by u/beeg303

Hello. I am currently a mechanical engineering student with a strong passion for nuclear physics. I was hoping to take a deeper look into finishing my bachelor's in mechanical engineering, then achieving my masters in nuclear engineering.

While working through my associate degree, my main goal was to transfer to a nuclear program. However, my state does not have any nuclear programs. After realizing this, I decided to work towards a mechanical engineering degree. While I do enjoy everything mechanical engineering has to offer, I still find myself far more interested in nuclear. This love of nuclear physics has followed me since childhood. I fear that this fascination with nuclear could someday become regret.

I previously did not know that you could cross disciplines, but I worry that it is more of a pipe dream than a reality. I am not worried about any extra curriculum; I enjoy school and welcome the challenge. However, if not having a bachelor's in nuclear engineering is too much of a hurdle to get through (i.e., would I basically need to double major) or if there is no real purpose in doing this, then I should probably stomp this dream once and for all.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I wish you all the best.

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### ***Deciding Between IE or EE for entrepreneurship career plan***

Posted by u/whoislaurynce

I'm in my senior year of high school and stuck between IE and EE for my BS after i graduate and i plan to pursue a career in entrepreneurship but want to have hands on skills under my belt.

I fell in love with EE when i went to a AE camp over the summer where we were working with signals and microcontrollers. Since then I have been working with arduinos esp32s and just bought a raspberry pi 5. I have worked with soldering pins to boards as well. I want to be able to create my own tech products with the rise in electric cars and renewable energy and i degree in EE would give me the actual insights in how i can make it. And while im developing products in the meantime the degree will help me to get a high paying job in the meantime time.

On the other hand i did research on IE and found that its kind of the “engineering for business”. I saw that it touches on supply chain management and helping processes to flow smooth for business. I feel as though a degree in this would help me to have more of a business mindset financially and

systematically with the way the market is growing. And even if i don't get my BS IE, i would consider a masters for the knowledge itself.

Honestly i just came to get advice on what people would suggest considering i start college next year. For the engineering colleges i applied as EE, but can change to IE if i choose so.

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### ***Engineering Career Advice***

Posted by u/Creepy\_Lingonberry89

Hi guys im looking for some guidance, I have just completed a two year associate engineering degree. Where should i go next to maximise earnings and career growth. Any advice is much appreciated as im young and not sure what path to take that wont waste time.

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### ***Advice on Mechatronic Engineering Course / Career***

Posted by u/redpandaninja2222

Highschool equivalent student in Ireland here. Last year before college. I have been looking into a Mechatronic course for a couple of weeks now and it seems pretty interesting. Ive always had an interest with electronics and robots but dont have too much experience with it as of yet. I was just wondering, how is mechatronics looked upon by the industry etc. Is it worthwhile, interesting, pay well? Id love to hear any and all information anyone has, just trying to learn as much as I can before making my choice. Anything helps!

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### ***Need some career advice***

Posted by u/Noswss

Hi,

So I'm a internationally graduated Civil Engineer from Asia and moved to CANADA about 3 years ago just 1 year after my graduation and worked as a BIM Modeler here ( due to PR priorities). I also have 10 months experience working on sites as Site Engineer from my country (mostly industrial concreting)

Now after getting my PR I'm looking to swich my career to Design field but I can't get any Internship/entry level job as I graduated 4 years ago and don't have any design experience and also can't apply for EIT as it has been discontinued in Ontario.

Please advice what should I do to kickstart my career.



I'm still good in maths & learn new things quickly but it's impossible to even get an interview to explain my situation.

Thanks for your replies ■

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### ***Looking to interview a mechatronics engineer for a school career project***

Posted by u/Inner\_Childhood\_4591

Hi everyone!

I'm an 11th grade high school student doing a term project, and I've chosen mechanical engineering because I'm really interested in it, and plan to study and make it my life. I'm sufficient in microcontrollers, know my way around 3D printers and just overall love creating new stuff, and love watching those DIY electronics youtube channels!

One part of the project requires interviewing someone who has worked in this field for 3 or more years.

It can be a video call, but if you prefer, I can also do it through email or written questions. It won't be shared publicly, it's just for my school project.

I'd love to ask questions about your career path, what your day-to-day work looks like, and what advice you'd give to someone who wants to go into ME.

If you're interested, please comment or DM me! Thank you in advance!

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### ***How to build career***

Posted by u/No\_Angle\_5602

I'm a first year student, and what could I do to build my career to have good offer after graduation?

Is it as simple as get good grades in first year, apply for co-op is afterwards? Whatelse?

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### ***How do I really plan my career?***

Posted by u/beautiful-entomology

Hello. I'm relatively new to Reddit so kindly forgive me if this is not the subreddit this post might belong to. I recently graduated with a mechanical engineering degree and I wanted to pursue my masters in aerospace engineering. I'm currently working as a product engineer at a core company that manufactures engines. I've been looking to make this switch in two years. I was hoping you could give me some suggestions on how I can prepare myself during these two years so I can have a good

chance at getting into uni and not regret my decision. I want your perspective in trying to understand if this indeed is a good decision at all. (Excuse me for any grammatical errors, English is not my first language ■)

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### ***Career outcomes from prestigious universities BSc in mechanical engineering***

Posted by u/mdsafwat33

How different are the career outcomes of someone who went to Let's say university of Michigan (45th globally) vs someone who went to Michigan state university (152th globally).

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### ***Stuck in a Govt PSU! How to change my career without higher studies? (Instrumentation Engineer)***

Posted by u/frustated\_lal

Hi everyone,

I'm currently working in one of India's government PSUs as an Instrumentation Engineer. To be honest, I feel quite stuck here, the career progression is very slow, there's too much politics, and I don't really feel any job satisfaction anymore.

I don't want to pursue higher studies like M.Tech or MBA right now, but I do want to switch my career to something more dynamic or growth-oriented.

What are some realistic options for someone with my background (Instrumentation Engineering + PSU experience) to transition into a better career path. either in the private sector, technical fields, or something entirely different?

Would appreciate advice from anyone who has made a similar switch or knows practical routes I can take maybe certifications, self-learning, or freelance options that actually work.

Thanks in advance!

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### ***People who did engineering as a second degree - how has your career developed?***

Posted by u/Royal-Jelly1026

Mostly I'm curious about your mobility for internships and job hopping. Was your early post-graduate career impacted by your kids? Etc. Curious to hear your experience!

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### ***Advice on a future career?***

Posted by u/Ace-of-spades-\_-\_-

Hello! I'm currently a freshman in high-school looking into aerospace engineering. I've been considering this job for a long time now and I'm finally realizing that college is coming up sooner than I could have ever imagined. I've been told by many people that's it's extremely math heavy. Math is not my strong suit; in fact I'm pretty bad at it. That doesn't stop me from desiring a job in this industry. Is being bad at math going to make me struggle significantly? Also, what courses of action can I take to help? I'm considering the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, but I'm not 100% sure what the best schools are. Any advice or suggestions? Thanks!

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### ***Career Crossroads***

Posted by u/Mission\_Ad\_3864

Need some input from the masses.

I'm at a crossroads in life. Unlike some, if not the majority of you, I'm a 40 year old looking at schooling again.

I graduate in 2 quarters with an Associate's in Architectural Engineering & Design from a local(to me) tech/community college. This program has shown me that I don't enjoy and also don't have the brain for design.

Am I crazy thinking about swapping to an engineering program? There is a large State school and also a private school that both offer highly rated programs.

Unfortunately the majority of my program I'm in will be all for nothing. So I will essentially be starting over again at 40.

What says the masses?

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### ***Basic knowledge before starting an engineering career***

Posted by u/hehe\_balls\_

I just moved to the US and I want to start an engineering career next year. I used to study law in my home country, but I've recently discovered a real passion for engineering! ■ You can probably guess that, as a former law student, I know NOTHING about numbers. I have six months to burn my brain with knowledge before I start classes. What should I study now so I can be ready?

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## ***Scientific Career Guide***

Posted by u/Creative-Camp9006

Hello everyone :), I live in Brazil and I'm currently starting my Mechanical Engineering degree. I'd like to better understand how I can become — and what it's like to work as — a researcher or scientist in the field of mechanical engineering.

In the future, I'd love to study or do research abroad, so I'd appreciate any advice on how to build an academic career without limiting myself to Brazil.

So, to summarize:

- \* What is it like to work in this field?
- \* How can I get into this career (both in Brazil and abroad)?

If you have links to websites or personal experiences, that would really help! ;)

Thanks in advance, everyone.

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## ***Advice for a mechanic looking to gain an education and possible career change***

Posted by u/Cammy\_teee

I feel like this is going to be kinda long, I've lurked on this sub for awhile I'm currently a mechanic working full time. I'm a high school drop out never really thought about doing anything else but I hurt my back pretty bad and with the way the automotive industry is progressing, I don't see my self wanting to do this for the next 40 years of my life especially for how much I'm getting paid and on the wear on my body. When I was younger I always wanted to design cars and that got me thinking I'm pretty smart(not genius level or anything) i can grasp complex concepts pretty well and I was decent at math.I dropped out of highschool because my social anxiety and the situation I was in as a kid/teenager wasn't great and I thought it was the right choice. Now that I'm an adult I'm thinking other wise I've been mulling around the idea of going to college for mechanical or civil engineering (civil for the amount of opportunities) I would of course start at my local cc and go from there I just don't know if I should go for it or not and here's why

1. I have to work full time working part time isnt an option I have three people I love very much that depend on me as the main bread winner in my household but a big reason I want to do this is to make a better life for all of us I'm planning on doing summer classes and only doing 3 per semester
2. I have no people skills and I still have that social anxiety from highschool and even tho people have told me I'm generally likeable I feel like I usually get lost in a conversation and dont know where to go with it i also start to panic and sweat alot when in conversations with people above me in the work place even tho I've done nothing wrong

3. I didn't have the best study practices when I was in school and I've always struggled paying attention to studies outside of class

4.)I'm also worried I'm not smart enough for all this as a mechanic I have to problem solve all the time since I work on all makes and models I'm not always super familiar with the platform and have to make something work but idk if a GED and a give em hell attitude is enough to become a mechanical engineer in the automotive industry

5) I have hand tattoos a neck tattoo and very long hair I'm not willing to cut but is always combed and put up.

So I guess my question is should I go for it, it's all I've been able to think about for months now or am I too far out of my league as a simple mechanic

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### ***Career Fairs: What do you actually want to see?***

Posted by u/Rittmomny

For civil engineering students:

In the height of career fair season, I'm curious to know what stands out to students looking for jobs and internships.

What do you actually want to see from companies at career fairs?

What makes you want to go talk to someone?

What information about the company are you looking for? Is swag more important than the content provided by a company? Is there anything that a company should avoid that would make you NOT want to work for them?

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### ***Don't know what to do for next internship and career development, ECE student***

Posted by u/master4020

I am currently looking for a job for my final summer before I graduate. I have had 2 amazing past internships in electrical and hardware engineering. I enjoy hardware and have started doing RF projects on the side. I'm a Canadian and back in first year wanted to try to get a job in the valley cause of the prospect of working on really cool projects and getting paid well. Of course, I realize there's tons of cool projects to work on regardless of the location, and more importantly is to be working on a decent team.

This is my last chance for a while to try to do this since I can work under the J1 as a student but as a grad I believe I'd be under the H1B(which trump just screwed everyone over with).

I want to know if it makes sense to apply to jobs in the states still since I can work on great projects in my own country and the application process is a lot more rigorous with multiple stages of interviews(I tend to see a lot of 2-5 rounds) for a internship. In terms of career development, I believe that I hit a point where I don't know what direction to head in next. I know there's still plenty of technical information left to learn, but I've gotten to the point where I've learned how to problem solve and find information to solve any technical issue I will come across. What I'm asking is, would going to another country help push me in my career development or does it make more sense to stay in my own country?

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### ***Help Navigating Physics UG --> Engineering Career/Masters***

Posted by u/ElderberryOk601

Hi,

I'm a junior studying physics and it's become apparent to me that I'm more interested in entering industry as an engineer; either EE or materials engineering.

I don't have much experience outside of physics courses (research, projects, clubs). It's not possible for me to change my major at this point, but I'm able to minor or begin on engineering coursework.

I'm certain that adding engineering coursework/projects will hurt my GPA (the physics classes are very difficult for me on their own). I'm only concerned about my GPA because I worry that I might need to get a masters in engineering. I'm unsure what I should prioritize here.

Can anyone provide insight on the admissions landscape of US engineering graduate programs? About how employers view physics graduates?

Has anyone navigated the transition between physics and engineering careers or know someone who has?

All advice is appreciated, I've been stressing out about this a lot.

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### ***Career advice***

Posted by u/Odd\_District\_7858

Hello everyone, I hold a bachelor's degree in IT, and given the current state of the tech market, I'm looking to transition into mechanical or civil engineering. I have two questions:

1. Do I need a bachelor's degree in engineering to get a job in that field?
  2. What does the job market look like for new engineering graduates?
-



## Chapter 2: Expectations vs. Reality

### ***Got drunk, thought about my future career***

Posted by u/qthy

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***I hate career fairs***

Posted by u/poubellehumaine

I hate recruiters, I hate their stupid polo shirts, I hate their spam messages on linkedin and handshake. I hate that they always schedule these things in the middle of the week when we're all busy with classes. I hate having to wear a suit and tie while the recruiters look like slobs. Thats all.

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### ***Just waited an hour to talk to Lockheed at a career fair just for them to barely glance at my resume and tell me to apply online***

Posted by u/Hanlons\_Toothbrush

i love engineering

edit:

Wow I was not expecting this to get so much attention! Lots of good advice in this thread, thank you! And i know this is par for the course for large companies, but that doesn't make it any less annoying

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### ***(Uk) Anxious I've messed up my career badly, what path should I take?***

Posted by u/SquashNew7612

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***Considering a career in engineering worried about it being boring?***

Posted by u/Numerous\_Advance1516



\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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## Chapter 3: Career Strategy & Growth

### ***Career fairs seem pointless unless the hiring manager is there.***

Posted by u/inthenameofselassie

I went to one recently and it was (my surprise) very engineer-amalgamated.

The problem is— none of these guys or gals have any power in giving me a job. Even the employee owned or smaller firms.

They tell me to go to their website and talk with so and so.

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### ***Salary Negotiation?***

Posted by u/CreativeFig2645

Previously made \$32/hr at a Spring Co-op. Unsure how to best navigate asking for higher salary, this email was after a career fair but before any interviews.

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### ***I'm overwhelmed by school subjects, does that mean anything for future ME major and career?***

Posted by u/Novel\_Bass6032

So my school system is different(I'm a high school senior), we basically have similar subjects in math and physics like most other school systems, but the huge difference is with the pressure, everything is packed in your senior year, and all your exams are in the end. (Ling story short, my friends in international systems do tell me how harder our local system is compared to theirs)

Either way, I'm studying physics now, particularly rotational mechanics and my mind is blowing up. Everything is understandable, makes sense and I don't think it's particularly hard. But then, when I start solving equations and problems, I either don't know what to start with, or solve everything correctly just to find out I put the opposite direction or added a zero somewhere. This made me almost fail my previous tests this year because our physics exams rely solely on multiple choice questions (you lose the whole mark if you put the wrong direction).

Time for me is a huge problem too, I couldn't solve half the test of 4 math problems and 10 multiple choice questions in an hour. When the final exam consists of 12 problems and 25 multiples in 2.5 hours.

I've always been the maths and physics guy that got my friends' backs before exams, teaching them everything they need to get great marks. But now, I can't even help myself with solving a couple simple equations.

So I know real life mechanical engineering doesn't work the same way school works, but if I can't grasp my head around those basic trig identities, how am I gonna be in charge of a whole R&D; department. What do I do?

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### ***Career pathways after M.Eng in Fire Protection Engineering (UMD)***

Posted by u/pekaboo600

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***The Silver Tsunami: Why the Water Industry's Biggest Challenge Is Your Biggest Career Opportunity***

Posted by u/myteev

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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## Chapter 4: Workplace Dynamics & Ethics

### ***Are career fairs actually worth it or just funnels to online portals?***

Posted by u/PerformanceFar7245

So here's my concern. Career services makes career fairs sound like the holy grail for internships. But the more I look at it, the more it seems like companies just direct you back to their online application portal anyway.

I get that career fairs might be good for practice and seeing who's hiring, but if the end result is still "go apply online," then is there really a point beyond grabbing the list of attending companies and checking them out later?

For context, I already feel good about my interview skills and resume (mock interview went well, GPA is strong). What I care about is ROI. Am I missing some hidden advantage to fairs (like referrals, actually standing out), or are they basically just billboards for the company pipeline?

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### ***Careers for a Mechanical Engineer who didn't like Engineering Mechanics courses?***

Posted by u/jakefromstatefarms0

I'm studying Mechanical Engineering and have loathed every single one of my engineering mechanics courses: statics, strength of materials, and dynamics. Same with math and electrical engineering.

Are there any engineering careers that focus solely on Design, Thermal/Energy, or Manufacturing concepts? I'm not super interested in HVAC and the manufacturing environment is meh.

I've always had my eyes set on management solely to be honest with just only a slight curiosity in the fundamentals of engineering. At this point I'm considering just moving into a business role of an engineering company instead.

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## Chapter 5: General Discussions & Advice

***I'm amazed that this far into my engineering career that people like this have still made it. She basically wanted me to give her a positive peer review when she did literally nothing. It was a group of 8. On the first report I had to track down the others just to find out their last name to slap on***

Posted by u/AnonymousAnchor

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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***Don't be like me, try to get a career at a place that will pay for a CAD program. I had to add features and Dimensions in Microsoft Paint.***

Posted by u/loud57

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***Career fairs are so useless***

Posted by u/Kalex8876

I've been to every career fair my school has had since I started except my first semester and it's always the same thing:

- ~ recruiter gives same talk about X company
- ~ you give recruiter your resume
- ~ they tell you to apply online

And it's just like, what's even the point of going to these things? I'll probably not go this spring cause I'd rather just apply in my room than be in a stuffy suit walking in circles trying to impress people that will just put my resume in an ATS anyways and still tell me to apply online.

PS: For some more context, I always try to say my elevator pitch and talk to recruiters about the company and what they do. A lot of are just recruiters tho so they don't really know much about the interesting stuff of what they do

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***This is true for every career fair I've been to***

Posted by u/seminaia

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***My experience at career fairs***

Posted by u/Sloth\_Brotherhood

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***Interviews and career fairs physically sicken me***

Posted by u/Mickey-\_-

I have an interview in 35 minutes with a very large aerospace engineering company and my stomach physically hurts. Like I want to throw up and I ache.

Last week I had a career fair and after talking to two recruiters my Stockholm hurt so much from the nervousness I went home early.

This just feels so self sabotaging because I end up performing worse in conversations because I'm thinking about my aches.

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN? And how do I make this not happen.

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### ***Why you SHOULD attend your school's career fair:***

Posted by u/CirculationStation

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***Is it weird that I want a career in pipeline inspection?***

Posted by u/ToffeeTangoONE

I'm in my third year of engineering, and I've been thinking about something probably way less flashy, such as [pipeline inspection](<https://picacorp.com/>). Well, it's not building new ones, but figuring out how to keep the old ones from failing.

It's wild how much of our infrastructure is decades old, and we usually don't notice it until something bursts or leaks. I started looking into the tech people use to check what's happening inside the pipes, and the stuff that can pick up corrosion, wall loss, even hidden cracks, and for me, it honestly feels more like detective work.

What I like is that it's not just about the pipes, it's about avoiding emergencies, saving money, and keeping water or energy flowing for communities. I agree, it's not fancy, but it feels real and impactful. Weirdly enough, I could actually see myself doing this as a career.

I wonder what do you think about that? Just curious about your opinion.

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### ***App journey w/ no internship no referral no career fair no friends no bitches no will to live literally just clicking smart apply on indeed***

Posted by u/katx\_x

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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### ***Those who changed careers to Engineering, what was it like?***

Posted by u/littlered551

Recently, I've been thinking about changing my career to Engineering. I used to want to go to Law School, but I don't have that same passion as I once did, and I feel like engineering is something I would like to stick with.

I understand the education for it will be hard. I am not a math guy, but I believe hard work prevails over all. I'm used to desk work in the Law field, and I understand engineering is going to have a lot of that (depending on the position of course). But being able to design things make life better in different ways just seems like a nice change of pace from my current path. I'm 24 atm, so if you're someone who's around my age/older, I'd really like to hear your experiences as well.

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### ***You're wasting everyone's time***

Posted by u/poayjay07

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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## ***ChemE careers in pharma/biotech that AREN'T plant/scale-up? Looking for R&D-oriented; engineers.***

Posted by u/thespacedude10

Hi everyone,

I'm a freshman at Rutgers planning to switch into Chemical Engineering (biochemical option) and eventually complete the M.Eng in Pharmaceutical Engineering. I'm really drawn to the biology + chemistry + innovation side of ChemE — things like formulation, bioprocessing, drug product development, MSAT, analytical development, and R&D-adjacent; engineering.

But everything I see online is:

- plant engineering
- scale-up
- 24/7 operations
- process troubleshooting
- reaction scaling
- industrial chemical plants

I don't think I'd enjoy reaction/process scale-up or operations-heavy roles.

I'm much more interested in scientific, technical, collaborative, pharma/biotech-focused work, not large industrial plant environments.

So I'm hoping people who actually work in pharma, biotech, cell/gene therapy, formulation, bioprocess engineering, MSAT, or process development can share your experiences.

My questions:

1. What does your day-to-day actually look like?
2. How much is desk work vs lab work vs meetings vs "on the floor"?
3. How creative or technical is your role?
4. How did you break into R&D-type; roles instead of manufacturing/operations?
5. Is a B.S. + M.Eng (PharmE) enough to land more technical roles, or is a PhD required?
6. Do you feel your work has meaningful impact?
7. Anything you wish you knew before choosing this path?
8. Would Biomedical Engineering be a better fit for me?

For context about me:

I'm very social, love biology + chemistry, enjoy creative problem-solving, and want a career that's technical and impactful but not process scale-up or industrial plant engineering. I'm aiming for a role that involves collaboration, science, and engineering within pharma/biotech.

Any honest insight would help a lot — thank you!



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### ***Friendly Reminder: Go to Career Fairs***

Posted by u/epc2012

This is your friendly reminder to make sure you attend your schools career fairs. Research the companies that will be there, look into the one's you are most interested in, have resumes and even cover letters typed up for the ones you are most interested in. You'd be surprised what you may come out with.

I recently attended my school's fair and I only spoke with 4 companies. As of now, I have officially received offers from all 4 companies for internships (even with a 2.4 gpa, no extracurriculars) . So go and sell yourself (legally).

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### ***Career fair***

Posted by u/seminaia

What are some stuff I can ask employers at a career fair?

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### ***engineering school vs engineering career***

Posted by u/Designer-Score6980

I'm currently studying engineering and I'm putting in 12-14 hour days 6 days a week and the day a week I'm not studying is spent on chores so I can keep myself alive like grocery shopping, clothes washing, cleaning room, etc.. is an engineering career going to be this demanding? I'm going this speed now assuming it will slow down, but will it ever?

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### ***Career switch from CS to IE with 2-3 yoe?***

Posted by u/aWildSefAppears

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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## ***Career advice***

Posted by u/Alwaysonthephone22

I'm in my second year of electronics and instrumentation engineering and have nothing to add on my resume I find that I'm more inclined to coding and the electronics part and struggle with the electrical part and circuits what are some things i can do to have a niche and interesting profile

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## ***Tried to network at a career fair***

Posted by u/Wise\_Slice6513

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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## ***Looking for Registered Mechanical Engineers!! I want to know about your current career!***

Posted by u/pythonman1

hello! I was looking for anyone available to answer a short [google form]([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2kHRUANtftuBmqjVg\\_VPu6BP9nmpx23pBN8NAY188RuMNhw/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2kHRUANtftuBmqjVg_VPu6BP9nmpx23pBN8NAY188RuMNhw/viewform?usp=header)) regarding your career experience in Mechanical Engineering.

The only requirement is being a registered Mechanical Engineer

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## ***Don't do it guys it's not worth it***

Posted by u/TheGreatCornhol10

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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## ***Career decision: electrical or mechanical engineering***

Posted by u/Dangerous-Candy-40

\*(No text content - Discussion Thread)\*

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