Unofficial First Year Guide To Everything

Your Lovely (And Possibly Smelly) Upper Years

May 11, 2023

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0.1 Introduction

Welcome to the **Unofficial First Year Guide To Everything**! If you are an EngSci 2T7+, welcome! If you are not, congratulations on making the right decision! Here, you can see my super-duper subjective guide. This is still a WIP, so don't expect there to be too much (yet). Feel free to contribute by submitting a pull request.

This is not an official document from UofT.

You can contact me via Discord (niceguy#6628).

Chapter 1

Supplies

Before coming into EngSci, you might wanna empty your parent's bank account just a bit more. As someone who is on the frugal side, here is some advice:

- Textbooks

    - Check with your professor to see if the textbook is actually used
    - See if you can download it (legally)
    - You can even print the relevant chapters out using your 900-per-term printing quota (they rarely use the whole book)
    - In most cases, there isn't much difference between a newer and older edition. However, you should always check.

- Laptops/Tablets

    - You might wanna get one if you have neither. You need these for meetings (Praxis, Design Teams), homework, note-taking, etc. A laptop is better than a tablet.
    - You don't need a new laptop just for better specs. Use Linux (I am typing this on a 10-year-old laptop). There are almost always outlets in lecture halls (ranging from one per seat to one per lecture hall), so battery life does not matter as much.

- Pens, pencils, erasers, paper

    - Cheap enough that it doesn't really matter.

Chapter 2

Courses

Chapter 3

Academics

This is where you can find general academic advice that applies to courses in general.

3.1 Accommodations

3.1.1 Petitions

This is not an official UofT website telling you "it's okay to submit petitions". Submitting petitions is actually okay. In my year, people were submitting petitions left and right during midterm season for their lab reports. I've seen people with high 80 averages submitting petitions. Your mental health is more important, and have faith in the curve.

Stuff you can petition for via the Engineering Portal: All deliverables (assignments, lab reports, etc) and assessments (quizzes, midterms, finals). It doesn't matter if you're just too busy to prepare for it, or if you're just sick. At this time, you don't need to provide proof of illness. It is rumoured that you get one freebie for sleeping through assessments.

3.2 Notetaking

Obviously I am biased. I prefer LaTeX for the more mathy courses, and Markdown for the rest. I know a lot of people take notes on their tablets using apps such as OneNote, Notability, Notion, etc. You can also download and annotate lecture slides directly.