

Talk To Me

Secrets of success in engineering and computer science

Presented by
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Fisher 139

A decorative border surrounds the slide, composed of various stylized letters, numbers, and symbols in shades of blue and grey, arranged in a repeating pattern.

I have a simple piece of advice for you

Talk with your professors!

- Why?
- When? How?



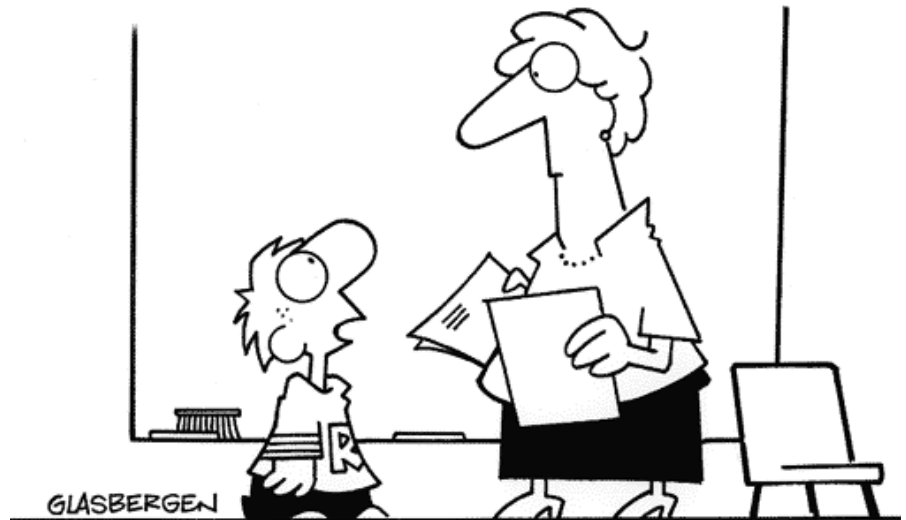
If you talk to your professors, you will...

- **Learn more and learn better**
 - about the class, majors, internships, research opportunities, career opportunities
- **Have a faculty member get to know you**
 - helpful for getting a reference letter
- **Enjoy learning and be inspired**
 - cool person
- **Get better grades**
- **Be recognized as someone with initiative**
- **Be comfortable with professional interactions**

Standard excuses

- I don't know enough
- The professor is intimidating
- I'd be sucking up to the teacher
- I have too much homework
- I don't have time
- The professor is busy

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"I couldn't do my homework because my computer has a virus and so do all my pencils and pens."



- Remember that professors are used to meeting with students – they expect to interact with you
- You don't have to have an urgent reason – it just needs to be important to you

Getting ready to meet with your professor

- Do it soon – make it a priority
- Have a specific idea of how to start the conversation, even if it's just to introduce yourself, get advice, or ask a question

Starting points

- Course information
- Interest in finding out about subjects, careers, internships, ...
- Projects you did or would like to do

Logistics

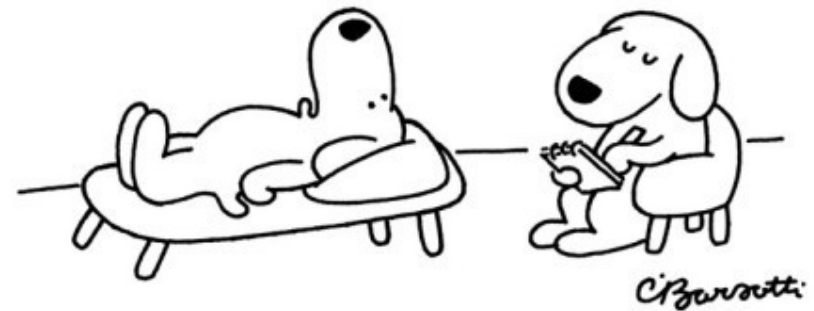
- Professor's office hours
- E-mail to make an appointment
- Ask a friend, TA, or other staff member how best to contact, reach, visit, the professor
- Receptions, social events, student organization meetings

Starting the conversation

- Hi ... name (year, major, hometown)
- I'm taking your XYZ class
- I'm interested in taking your XYZ class
- Questions about assignments, the course
- Questions about research opportunities, advice for future
- Ask a question about the professor's work
 - remember, everyone likes to talk about themselves and are flattered to be asked

Can it go wrong?

- Yes
- But don't give up – professors are people too and they aren't all alike
- Don't take it personally
- Try again another day
- Meet with your other professors too



"I bark at everything. Can't go wrong that way."

AllPosters

How to make a great first impression

- Stand up straight, knock on the door
- Ask if it's (still) a convenient time
- Look the professor in the eye
- Have a plan in mind for what you'd like to get out of the meeting
- Be mindful of the time and use it wisely

You can talk in the classroom too

- Small talk before or after class
- Comments about major deadlines, projects in other classes
- Engage all the students present

Good luck!



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NEW!

Please tell about

- Your experience
- Tips you'd like to offer

