

**Course Objectives, Syllabus, and
Course Policies FALL 2026**

ENGR 1000: Thriving in College (Engineering Study)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. J. Torey Nalbone,
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tnalbone@uttyler.edu
Office hours generally 0730 – 0930 T & Th or as posted, and
if needed, by appointment when other arrangements are made.

Also available is a ZOOM Office hour available during Regular hours and you are welcome to seek additional instruction. **There are set aside virtual office hours via ZOOM posted on Canvas.**

Torey Nalbone is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Course Office Hours Zoom Meeting

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/85751252646?pwd=Ybb7YlJ01GiJeiHE42MkhNzdX8GTpD.1>

Meeting ID: 857 5125 2646

Passcode: 704507

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85751252646# US (Houston)

+17193594580,,85751252646# US

All materials for the course will be available on the CANVAS web site for the course. An appropriate introduction will be provided when a guest lecturer's video is part of the lessons for the day.

Course Overview:

Thriving in College prepares students in the College of Engineering with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to succeed academically and engage fully in the university experience. The program equips students with evidence-based strategies for effective learning, including techniques for improving information storage and retrieval, managing stress, and cultivating a growth mindset. Students are also introduced to the academic, advising, career, student engagement, and counseling resources available to support their success. In addition, the program provides opportunities for students to build connections with their peers while engaging with the college's administration, faculty, and staff, fostering a strong sense of community and belonging from the outset of their academic journey.

Required Textbooks and Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. The required readings and videos are embedded in the Calendar of Topics located within the CANVAS site for the course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students taking Thriving in College will:

- Explain and make use of brain-based strategies for success in studying and completing academic assignments using the tools importance of academic integrity and introduce the tools of academic success and promote their familiarity.
- Identify how a growth mindset and strategies for understanding stress can improve outcomes by addressing challenges encountered in college.
- Show how the academic resources, such as advising, career, student engagement, and counseling support impact possibilities for engineering study success.
- Extend their sphere of influence by engaging with other students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
- Experiment with the use of technical communications skills.
- Discover the impact engineering has had on the modern world.

Assignments

Weekly online participation including expected or required attendance (log-in to achieve minimum of **90%** attendance, that is 15 Readings and 15 activities to be completed)

Reflections/Challenge Activities including Discussion Review and contributions: **45%**

Quizzes and Fact-Finding exercises **45%**

Grading Scale

You can earn a Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC) grade in this course. To earn a grade of CR in the course, you must earn at least overall of 70% grade accumulation.

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: This seminar course is designed to assist you in being successful in your coursework and networking at UT Tyler. Students can submit materials late, BUT this will be graded with penalty according to the following schedule

Late but still on due date -5%

< 24 hours late – 15%.

>24 hours but < 48 hours late-45%

-15% for each additional 12 hours of late time

Attendance Policy: You are an essential course member; no one can replace you in our class community. Therefore, you are to attend all assigned sessions asynchronously and cover materials designated for that week (module) assigned. If you discover that you must miss a class, you must notify the instructor, regardless, via CANVAS 24 hours in advance.

Graded Course Requirements Information: The following section provides an overview of each assignment in this course. *Additional information will be presented in the seminar about each assignment.*

Survey and Meet with your professor: You are an incredible person, and I look forward to getting to know you and learning from and with you. Complete the student survey so I can begin to learn more about you. For extra credit: During the first month of the term, schedule a meeting for 10 minutes with me in person or via Zoom.

Reflections on Seminar Session Topics: For the sessions listed that require a reflection assignment (see the calendar and assignment due section), you will respond to the following prompts:

- 1) What was the big takeaway from the discussion?
- 2) How will this information impact your daily practice (in academics, career development, financial literacy, etc.)?
- 3) When you implemented this new understanding/finding, what difference did it make for you? (This could be a feeling, an academic, financial, or career insight.)

Challenge Activity: As this course builds a solid foundation for success, you'll learn about different "smart" academic behaviors. We'll discuss these in class, and you'll document that you have completed these behaviors. There will be positive incentives associated with you completing these behaviors.

Quizzes and Fact Finding Missions: part of the excitement and objective of higher education is to broaden your knowledge base and experience with concepts and ideas in a "Neutral" environment that allows for growth and inquiry. During this course there will be fact finding missions that ask you to explore or investigate a topic or concept that you will find new and interesting. However, more importantly you will find it useful in the future, especially while here at UT Tyler.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

Week	Week of Monday Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment – All assignments due the following week
1	Aug 24	Welcome to College/School – You Belong Here and you have a Team for Success	Effective Use of Peers	Reflection on Effective Use of Peers
2	Aug 31	Meet the College of Engineering Leaders and Support Teams	Activity to be assigned	Reflection on your part of the COE Team
3	Sep 7	Team Building – Making Connections/Friends	Building networks beginning with Major peers	Challenge Activity

	Labor Day week	in Engineering Studies		
4	Sep 14	Engineering Studies for Career	Information from Career Success	Attend College Career Fair
5	Sep 21	Growth Mindset and the Academic Supports at UT Tyler COE	- Academic Advisors - What is Growth Mindset https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75GFzikmRY0 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1YI9nvXIE0 - Dr. Carol Dweck: DEFEAT Stress, Anxiety, Depression & ACHIEVE more! video - Good Stress vs. Bad Stress	Growth Mindset Activities
6	Sept 28	Research-Based Brain Strategies	How to Not Fail in College – Dr. Stephen Chew 1) Beliefs that Make You Fail...or Succeed 2) What Students Should Know about How People Learn 3) Cognitive Principles for Optimizing Learning 4) Putting Principles for Learning into Practice	Challenge Activity
7	Oct 5	Library Resources	Ms. Christine Duncan	Exploration Activity
8	Oct 12	College of Engineering Fun & Midterms?		
9	Oct 19			
10	Oct 26	Setting Up for Future Success: Career Coaches		Challenge Activity
11	Nov 2	I Didn't Earn the Grade I Wanted – What to do now?	Dr. Stephen Chew - I Blew the Exam, Now What?	Reflection
12	Nov 9	Getting Ready for the Next Term – Academic Advising	TBD	Challenge Activity
13	Nov 16	Financial Aid & Scholarships	TBD	Exploration Activity
Thanksgiving Holiday (Fall Break) Nov 23-29)				
14	Nov 30	Setting the Stage for Fantastic Subsequent Semesters	TBD	Challenge Activity
15	Dec 7	Next Semester Planning What		

		Comes with the New Year!!		
		HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK		