

Tips for AAE Graduate Students

Journals/References

- AIAA papers back to 1986 can be found in the basement of the Potter Engineering Library. As you exit the stairwell, turn left and go to the far side of the room to find these papers.
- AIAA papers and journal articles can be found online at www.aiaa.org/journals, but you must be on a Purdue computer or must use a VPN connection on your personal computer to access this.
- Most IEEE papers and journal articles can be found online at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/search/advsearch.jsp>. Again, you must be on a Purdue computer or must use a VPN connection on your personal computer to access this site.
- The website <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/eresources/>, contains a link to “Electronic Journals Database,” which is a large list of electronic journals. Purdue has full text access to some of these journals, such as the Journal of Fluid Mechanics.
- At the site <http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/eresource/result2.cfm>, you can find a list of online databases to help you search for papers and articles. The “Aerospace & High Technology Database,” “Compendex,” and “Web of Science” seem to work particularly well for aerospace related material.
- “Web of Science” includes a handy cited reference search. You can enter an author or paper/journal title, and the database search engine will return all articles that cite that author or paper/journal.

Computer / Software / Printer / Network Issues

- In order to establish a VPN (Virtual Private Network) connection to the Purdue network from your personal computer, look at the instructions at <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/telecom/vpn/>. This type of connection maps your school network drives so that you can access them as if they are a drive on your personal computer. Also, a VPN will allow you to access electronic journal articles and papers as discussed above.
- Certain software, such as Matlab, the Microsoft Office Suite, AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, and more, can be accessed from your home computer. Go to www.itap.purdue.edu, and under the “Academics” heading, click “Distributed Academics Computing Services (DACS).”
- Make an effort to learn software such as Matlab. You will be asked to use it sooner or later.
- You can download certain software, such as Exceed, SSH Client, SecureCRT, Tecplot, and more onto your personal computer for free by visiting <https://engineering.purdue.edu/ECN/Software/Downloads>.
- Software that is normally expensive, such as the Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft Windows XP, MathCAD, and others can be purchased at reasonable prices at the printing office on the main floor of the Purdue Memorial Union. For example, Microsoft Office can be purchased for around \$13.
- If you feel rusty on computer knowledge, ITAP gives free classes on all sorts of computer subjects throughout the semester. A list of classes, schedules, and sign-up forms can be found at <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/training/index.cfm>.
- ITAP is going to start charging for printing over a certain quota, but printing to ECN printers will still be free.
- Color Printers: A good quality color printer resides in GRIS 358, and it is called gris358rx. Another good color printer resides in GRIS 380, gris380rx, but it may or may not be working. If in a bind, the ITAP computer lab in the MATH building has a color printer. Jobs are sent to it and the prints are brought out at the top of every hour.
- Only use color printers when color is needed; otherwise use black and white. Class notes can usually be printed in black and white.

- Black & White Printers: A good quality black and white printer resides in GRIS 360, and it is called gris360bhp.

Plan of Study

- Get your plan of study finished before you start your second semester. This is not the rule yet, but it soon will be. Your plan of study is filed electronically via SSINFO. Go to www.ssinfo.purdue.edu, login, and click the “Academic” link, and then the “Graduate Student Database” link. A new page will appear, then click “Plan of Study Generator” to take a look at how you set up your plan of study.
- You may make changes to your plan of study in the future once it is filed on the “Plan of Study Generator” website.
- If you plan to pursue your doctorate degree and during your masters degree you plan to take more classes than are necessary for your masters, only enter the necessary classes on your masters plan of study. Save the extra classes that you take during your masters for your doctoral plan of study. If you put those extra classes on your masters plan of study, you will not be able to use them toward your doctorate degree.
- If you have a question regarding your plan of study, talk to your advisor and Linda Flack.

International Students

- If you have questions regarding student visa status, you are better off asking International Student and Scholars (ISS). Rules regarding international students changes sometimes, and your friend may not know it.

Miscellaneous

- Don't be afraid to talk to professors and get to know them. The more with whom you become familiar, the better off you will be.
- Don't be afraid to talk to other students and staff in Grissom and make friends with them. There are many people here who are new as well, and they will welcome getting to know other people. There are also many people here who have been here for a while and who would be happy to become familiar with you.
- If you plan to write a thesis: Find an advisor in the first semester. Take a look at the professors' websites to find ones working on projects that interest you. Then talk to students to get an idea of what those professors are like, and narrow down your search. Then talk to the professors themselves.
- If you like to swim, lift weights, play basketball, racquetball, etc, as a student, you have a free membership to the recreation center. Take advantage of this opportunity.
- “Tips for Graduate Living,” a booklet compiled by the Purdue Graduate Student Government, can be found at www.ics.purdue.edu/pgsg/gradtips.pdf. This booklet contains practical information concerning Purdue policies, what to do in Lafayette, housing, local transportation, health care, grocery store, and much more.
- Do your best to have a social life besides school. Life isn't always about your work. For example, meet people, join a club, go to parties.
- Most of important of all is to keep **healthy**. Your health is your wealth. Take multi-vitamins and vitamin-C as well. Drink plenty of water. Eat well. Do some sports at least 3 to 4 times a week.
- If you have any personal problems that need confidentiality, you can talk to Professor Lyrintzis or your advisor. You can also seek help from CAPS in PUSH.