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I go to most of my classes even though they are useless. I barely even have a social life, I study hard everyday, attempt every homework, get tutors, see TA/Profs and go to reviews and I still only manage to get a C at best due to either overthinking the exams or just flaking altogether because of the pressure. idk if I need to change my major, but idk what to do any more. If i transferred schools, the result will be the same. Dropping out isnt an option since I want a degree and I work so hard for it. Just today I took a test in Thermodynamics and nearly flaked out because every problem was twisted in some way and not like the homework at all. I had spent all week going to reviews and tutors and I still just suck. idk what to do anymore. not to feel so emo, but i just feel like a failure. its the same thing everyday since freshman year: failure after failure after failure and im just sick of it but idk what to do College isn't like high school; you can't get straight As just by putting in a lot of work. Some people are just better at learning than others, and in college those people are the ones who get As. Also, chemical engineering is close to the hardest major you could possibly pick. If you're struggling in college in general, you need an easier major. I think the key to doing well in college is study skills. A few people think intelligence is key, I think it helps, but studying skills>intelligence when it comes to getting the grade. How are you allocating your time? When you study, do you study efficiently? A lot of people study really inefficiently, or end up reading facebook instead of their textbook. I personally think that one hour of solid, efficient studying beats four hours of inefficient studying. Office hours are good for helping you out on specific points, but if you don't understand the subject in general, office hours aren't cost effective. For almost all of the science classes I have taken, lectures were key. Sometimes I even skipped reading the book. I went through the lectures, made sure I understood all the powerpoint slides, and went to office hours or consulted a study group if I didn't understand a specific point. Also, mind your pacing. If you study for 4 hours straight, chances are the last 2 hours you study will be a whole less ineffective than your first 2. I take breaks with games/movies if I have to study for a prolonged period of time. ^that's good advice I go to most of my classes even though they are useless. I barely even have a social life, I study hard everyday, attempt every homework, get tutors, see TA/Profs and go to reviews and I still only manage to get a C at best due to either overthinking the exams or just flaking altogether because of the pressure. Maybe it's just the stress that's getting to you. Do you think you would be able to solve the exam problems if they were assigned as homework, problems instead? Yes I do feel like I could do alot better if it was assigned homework. I would be able to collect my thoughts and relax while doing them since I'm not under a time pressure (like having a 50 minute test) @lollybo I usually my prof's office hours when I either cant get the math to work out or I have no idea as to how to approach a problem or topic (which is usually the case) All in all, I know it may seem like "Why are you in chemical engineering still if its hard?" Im not afraid to say that I dont really have a passion for this or any other college major, but Im just thinking in terms of being set for the future with the versatility that engineering has. but idk maybe Ill just get a masters in it and get my bs in math or chem. but i mainly just need to get through classes right now and worry about those later Accept that with your best efforts, a "C" is what you can achieve. "C" is not fail, it is pass. If you make Cs in all your CE classes you will graduate. Yay! @ Batllo I would but its just someone told me that even though i have all of these extra classes that im doing well in (basically language/humanities), my major gpa would suck when i apply for a job, which apparently employers look at from what i heard, as opposed to overall gpa Magneto- Baby steps dude. The economy is bad and no one is hiring at this time. But that is neither here nor there. Gotta get you graduated with a degree in CE. Then worry about getting employed. You should do some research, tho. Just suggesting. You are still in the game. Good Luck. I know what you mean by when you say the hmwk is different than the test, I've been through that. You just gotta learn the material and apply it. You can't just memorize how to do the problem you have to see the ins and outs of that problem, how does it work? Other than that I would suggest studying couple of hrs take a break and get back to studying. Study with friends. The problem mainly comes in when the test question will have several things to solve for and the question only gives you a little bit of information and in the homework there's only one to solve for and most everything is given. I know I tend to miss alot of clues when it comes to college tests because of pressure which ultimately kill me, not necessarily that I dont know the information as i thought, but then still idk. I guess just under a 50 minute period im bound to be really nervous Google "test anxiety." Or consider talking to a counselor. It sounds like finding a better way to deal with the pressure of exams might make a big difference to you. Good luck! All in all, I know it may seem like "Why are you in chemical engineering still if its hard?" Im not afraid to say that I dont really have a passion for this or any other college major, but Im just thinking in terms of being set for the future with the versatility that engineering has. but idk maybe ill just get a masters in it and get my bs in math or chem. but i mainly just need to get through classes right now and worry about those later This is a problem. Any major is going to seem difficult if you have no passion for it; majoring in engineering when you have no self-interest or motivation beyond 'a job' and a grade is not wise. Are you interested in any other majors? I dont mean as job prospects or easy, I mean genuine interest. If not, do you have any interests outside of school? Perhaps writing, anything that captures your fancy? Well Im interested in alot of academic areas like engineering, but i just find it so burdensome when it comes to certain classes that are pure hell for me. I like econ and accounting, but again here, i dont have any passion for it. Im not really passionate about anything really. I like playing video games and reading comics and watching tv, nothing really specific that would tell too much about me My friend's dad is a Stanford graduate and his advice is to get up and walk around for 15 minutes after every hour of studying. Then get back to work. Also, I remember my Psych professor told me that people are most alert from 8-9 am and 8-9 pm. He also said that memory retention is best if you sleep right after learning the material. That being said, if you really dislike your major and like another one you should definitely study that. You don't want to spend the rest of your life working a job that you loathe. Besides, this is America- you're not going to literally starve to death if you become a teacher instead of a doctor. Have you gotten advice from the college counseling center? It can help with test anxiety as well as refining your studying habits. Research also has indicated that people who study in groups in college usually do better than do people who don't. I have not yet. Its just so hard to get to it when there's soo much work and classes to go to, but that will be my next course of action just today I took a test in Thermodynamics and nearly flaked out because every problem was twisted in some way and not like the homework at all. I had spent all week going to reviews and tutors and I still just suck This is engineering. period. I had a professor that told us right off the bat. There's not too much to just being able to memorize how to solve certain problem by applying the same steps or solving it the exact same way. Ideally, you understand the concepts to the extent that on a test the professor can present a problem in a new or different way that requires you to essentially 'reach' for the answer. The problem with this is that sometimes the professor can expect you to 'reach' too much, but usually that is covered by curving the exams. In general I don't think I've ever had a quiz or exam where the average score was above the 60-70% range. What you may need to be doing is fine-combing the text more or reading from other sources or texts rather than just doing hundreds of problems. Look online for videos, etc, just find another way to get the conceptual information to stick really well. It WILL actually get easier once you've passed the 'weeder' classes and are in your upper-division ones. If you're in engineering, then you're right on track. Work smart, not hard. Page 2 Magneto, may I know what college you're at? This thread is scaring me btw. I haven't graduated HS yet. How do you know the results would be the same if you transferred colleges? Really, a different environment/rigor might help you. yes, this is scaring me too! what school is this? @Beautifulnights I just have that feeling that no matter what college I'm at, the result will be the same. I dont know for sure but it doesnt matter since I cant transfer anyway @AndromedaGal Its Case Western Reserve University. Its not hard for everyone, but it is known to be really rigorous, especially in the weeder classes @Experiment8 Yea I really hope it will. The problem is me. For all of the tests and exams I either fail or dont do as well as everyone else, the averages are really high. For those I just flat out bomb, the averages are like 40-50 usually. I remember my first intro chem test, the average was a 45 Magneto, I was actually on track to be a chem major a while back. I've switched to accounting since, but I always succeeded in hard science classes, too. I'm not sure if it's similar to CE since I've never taken an engineering class, but at least for my chem classes I found experiment8's comment to be really true: a lot of it is conceptual understanding. For me, that often meant just sitting down on a couch and thinking about what I'm learning. Can you visualize what you're learning in your head and can you see the chemical reactions, energy exchanges, whatever it may be? Do you know what the simplifying assumptions are when you learned the material, and can you imagine how other variables might be introduced that complicate the matter a little bit? After I do all that, THEN I tackle the numbers and the concrete problems. I find the first step is really easy to do right before you go to bed when you're free to do your own thinking. Since it doesn't involve paper/pencil, you can think about it anytime. This may or may not help you, but I can tell you I did really well in science courses without much struggling when I started with the "conceptual." I just want to add that the conceptual part is not necessarily some broad generalization. You could be thinking about specific problems you went over in class. But focus less on the numbers and more on the interplay and the complexities of the physical interactions, etc.. Hope that helps in the long run. I guess that is the problem. I try really hard to get the math down and I thought that by doing that I would understand the concepts, but in all actuality, I dont understand either and end up being a failure (sorry for the emo-ness, ive just been really down this weekend with this) but is there anything anyone can suggest as to how exactly do approach a class like Thermo? other than read the book. Is there any resources or youtube vids about it that could help or anything like that? Maybe math and chemistry aren't part of areas that suit you. You need to pick classes that you think you'll excel in. @HopefulEagle86 I know. maybe they are and I just havent got the college thing down yet, or maybe they arent and I need to find something in which I excel. the problem with that is that everything Ive tried in college I just fail at like a total failure at college. Well, the darko guy dropped out of Georgia Tech if it makes you feel any better. Can you take anything related with Natural sciences, Anthropology or English? Perhaps you're better with those kind of courses. This thread is really scary. It's pulling other seniors down too. Magneto, can you afford to take summer courses or go to school for 9 semesters instead of 8? If you can, maybe you should take a light load (maybe 3 classes) next fall (or summer) of a variety of subjects. For instance, take one CE, one humanities of your choice, and one completely off the wall subject you haven't considered yet. Give yourself a chance to really learn each subject in depth (by not taking too many courses) and learn how to grasp the subjects conceptually BEFORE concrete application. If you're in a financial situation where you can afford a light-load semester, take advantage of it. You could simultaneously learn which subjects you excel in and how to approach them for the best possible grade. @justtotalk your right. its what I thought I was doing now and didnt even realize it. i didnt even think that i was overloading myself too much. Thats what i plan to do since i was on academic probation last year and had to take summer classes to get back on track. I had planned on this summer taking either 2 of the following: ochem, diff eq, and physics 2, and possibly taking either accounting or psych @HopefulEagle86 Im sorry. its just that Im going through something. Please dont take this to mean that college is always like this. this is just something im going through and hopefully ill get it straightend out. I have discovered that if i were to take a class like Thermo in the summer, i could do alot better on it (happened for Chem. of materials class), but no school near me has that class during the summer which sucks. thats why ive been considering taking ochem or diff eq or something else You might consider avoiding ochem over the summer. The class, at least for me, was pretty time consuming and the reactions aren't always intuitive. It might take up too much of your time and I'm not sure it'll teach you the conceptual understanding skills you seem to need right now-because logical thinking won't always predict the actual courses the rx's take. IMO. Physics 2, psych and/or accounting would be perfect to try out over the summer. All the classes demand conceptual understanding but won't overburden somebody who's already dealt with CE courses. I hope those type of classes would let you figure out how to think about ideas instead of grinding out problems that maybe you're not really understanding. Good luck! Update: Ive decided to drop Thermo so I can at least try to concentrate on statics and calc 3. hopefully that will calm me down alot hi, I just found your post over the search for solution of the same problem. Could you possibly post an update? How are doing doing now? Did you get through that dead-end-everyway period? What did you do? This is really not a good feeling. Please give advice, thanks a lot! @omgtests - The user has not been active since 2012 and this thread itself is 5+ years old. I doubt OP would be available for an update. Also look for different sources of practice problems, such as: Start to learn how to attach different types of problems. I hope he's ok and hope he made it through. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. 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