

## Computer Engineer Major

### Computer Science Minor

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#### Scheduling Tips:

- My personal choice for scheduling classes (Ultimate or no Ultimate) was to try to place all my classes between 9am – 2pm, one after another. Main reason was because I am not the type that could be productive in the morning before my first class. If my first class is at noon (which usually then means your school day will end later), I will sleep or be lazy till noon and then start my day. Also, I hated being at practice knowing I still had another class to sit through afterwards.
- For tournaments that were further than WI, you would always miss Fri classes but could often make it back for 11am and later Mon classes. This in mind, I would try to only have 1 class on Fridays and (as Friday lectures usually come paired with Monday lectures) I'd aim for an 11am+ class so I wouldn't be as likely to miss two consecutive lectures for the same class. When it's out of your control, find a friend that you can get lecture notes from.
- Probably just luck, but I only remember once having the conflict where an exam landed on a Friday of a tournament weekend, or having an exam on Monday that I couldn't get back for. Profs are usually good about accommodating for you whether it be you taking it early, or taking a 'make-up' exam afterwards. Although, if you are desperate, I guess you could always fly.
- Obviously, classes you need to take aren't always going to be when you want them to be. Every spring semester, there always seemed to be a CSci class that I needed to take that was only offered Tues/Thurs from 4-6pm (the same time Spring practices had traditionally been). I'd always go to class and a ways in if I felt I had a handle on the lecture material of the day, I'd get a buddy to take the rest of the notes for me and take off early to hit the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of practice.
- On the whole, I never felt that committing 2-2.5 hours out of an afternoon to ultimate was taking away from time that I should have been doing school related things. Then again, I could only be productive with homework/studying 8 pm and later anyway.

#### General School Tips

- When taking your generals, find ones that cover multiple requirements; like my Historical Survey of British Literature triple kill: Upper division writing intensive req., History req., and Literature req. from 1 class. I only took a general if it covered at least 2 requirements I needed.
- The more credits a class is, the more affect the grade you get in that class will have on your GPA. So get A's in your easy/boring 4 credit generals. You will be happy later on knowing you've built yourself a nice cushion when you are getting owned in that Digital Signal Processing class.
- If it's a large credit general that focuses on all your weaknesses, it's ok to take it pass/fail. Yes, I took the Historical Survey of British Literature pass/fail. Classes you take pass/fail don't affect your GPA. As long as you aren't doing it with all your generals, it shouldn't look bad when it comes time to internship/job hunting.
- Once you get into classes for your major, all the same people will be in all your classes. Find a study/hwk group. This can be very valuable deeper into your major when things don't just immediately make sense to you. Study groups can be bad if you abuse it. You will regret it if you just let everyone else do the work and don't ensure you understand what's going on.
- If a prof or TA is holding a review session, go to it. They often further emphasize what to focus on there more so than they did when they briefly talked about the upcoming exam in class.
- Know the breakdown of your final grade. I had a CSci class where hwk was 60% of your final grade (5 assignments throughout the semester). In such a case, you make sure you submit near perfect homework every time. If hwk is 10% of your final grade, don't stress if you can't figure out a hwk problem. Scribble something down, get partial credit, and just make sure you learn it when you get the solutions back because in this case your final grade is probably mostly dependent on your exam scores.