



Q: How did you select your college major or certification program?

A: I knew I was good at math and science and enjoyed those two subjects and their challenges. I also knew I loved aviation and wanted to work around or with airplanes in some way. Being a mechanical engineer allows me to combine all of those aspects in one major.

Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

A: I knew I wanted a job in aviation, so I looked up a list of possible related careers. One by one I narrowed down the jobs, “no, not an actual pilot. No, not a mechanic. No, I don’t want to be an Air Traffic Controller, ect.” At the end, engineering was the job I liked the idea of the most.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A: If I could go back to high school and retake any class, I would go back and take some calculus classes. I took high school chemistry and physics and that basic foundation has helped me as I go through those topics in college classes. Unfortunately, the highest math class I took in high school was pre-calculus and while that was helpful, it’s very different from calculus and it’s hard to take college calculus without that foundation.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your major?

A: My favorite aspect about my major is the challenge of the major. A lot of people don’t make it to become engineers because the classes and the major are hard but I love the challenge of the major and can’t wait to look back and say “it was hard but I stuck to it and now I’m an engineer.” And of course it’s just a bonus that I get to take classes in math and science and then apply the concepts I learned in class to scenarios that could very well happen in real life. In other words I love how my major connects math and science to the real world.



STEM SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR: Noa Bender



Q: How do you/your major make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: As one of my professors loves to say, “without engineers you would still be by the river beating your clothes clean.” Engineers are the ones that take the discoveries made in science and apply that knowledge to better the lives of the people around them. Without engineers you would not have inventions such as ovens, or dishwashers or elevators, or washing machines. Engineers help society by solving problems to fix or make inventions so that life is easier for you and me.

Q: What’s the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your college career?

A: One of the coolest things I have done so far is joining an organization called engineers without borders. It allows me as an engineering student to use my time and skills to impact communities in third world countries with projects like greenhouses or water sources. I have also really enjoyed being a STEM Ambassador. Seeing young people apply STEM concepts to activities and realize how fun STEM can be is very exciting for me.

Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your major?

A: I love that fact that I am gaining the skills needed to get the job I want. In other words it’s exciting to know that all the work I put in school isn’t just preparing me for college anymore, instead it’s preparing me for an actual job: the job I want. Plus, I love being able to take concepts and formulas and apply them to real life scenarios. To me it’s super exciting that the things I learn from school can be used in the real world to help me and others around me.

Q: What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your major?

A: Don’t let people scare you out of wanting to be an engineer. And don’t worry about not knowing exactly what an engineer does. It is a hard major but if you want to be an engineer, you will make it happen. It is true that the field of engineering can be confusing at times. For example, I’m still not exactly sure what exactly I will be doing for my job after I graduate. But that’s the great thing about engineering. It’s such a broad field with some many different jobs for engineers that you can find out what section you really love to do and specialize in there.

