CLASSES

Q: How easy is it to talk to my professors?  
The department really focuses on having a good teacher to student ratio so that students can directly interact with their professors during and after lecture. All professors have easy access for communication in office hours as well.

Q: How much time do you dedicate towards schoolwork?  
On average, each credit hour corresponds to 3 hours of work outside of class per week. People usually average 15 credit hours or 4 classes a semester. As an upperclassman, there are usually classes that require a lot more lab and programming work outside of class or work with teammates.

Q: What are the class sizes?  
Lower-division courses tend to have bigger class sizes, up to 200. One you get into the 300 or 400 level technical electives, class sizes tend to go down to around 30-50.

Q: How can I get help for classes?  
There are office hours, HKN tutoring/review sessions and CARE tutoring, to name a few.

Q: Average textbook cost/how many classes need textbooks/where to get textbooks?  
There are free, searchable pdf's online for almost all textbooks you'll need in ECE courses. Most classes don't require textbooks anyways. The only textbooks you will have to buy are things for your GenEds or Physics.

MORE RESOURCES

Q: How can I get students’ perspectives on ECE?  
Check out Dr. Everitt's Neighborhood, a wiki run by our ECE Student Honors Society (HKN), to provide years of information on classes, schedules, student experiences and more!

Q: Where can I get mental health/counseling resources?  
ECE Advising is a great resource if you need to talk through anything related to your major. UIUC Counseling Center is also a campus wide resource.

Q: What's a good place to start understanding ECE Illinois?  
Check out https://ece.illinois.edu/ for all other information and feel free to check out all the RSO websites linked in this pamphlet to contact anyone on the respective executive boards to learn more.
Q: Can I double major/minor?
Yes! It’s hard, but you can definitely do it and many do!

Q: How easy is it to switch between CompE and EE?
Super easy because it’s the same department! It is advised to wait until after completing the core classes to decide.

Q: Can I take other classes outside my major?
Yes, and required for Gen Ed requirements!

Q: How does class sign up work?
You get a sign-up date, and then you go to an online portal and sign up for your classes.

Q: Can I graduate early?
Yes, if you come in with a lot of credit you can generally graduate a semester early.

Q: How can I participate in research?
Reach out to professors! Many professors would love having undergraduates in their research group. PURE is another resource.

Q: How easy is it to get an internship/How do I get one?
We have a semesterly career fair where over 200 companies come to recruit YOU! Typically, it’s more difficult for freshman to get summer internships (though it is not unheard of). It becomes much easier once you’ve taken higher level courses. We also have an ECE/CS specific career event and companies in our atrium every week.

Q: Can I do a CS minor?
Only as an EE major.

Q: Can you take CS classes if you’re in ECE?
Yes, you might even have to. Many of them are crosslisted between both departments.

Q: Can I double major in CS with ECE?
Only as an EE (not CompE because of too much overlap), but it is not recommended due to workload. If you choose to do so, you will need to apply to separately to CS department.

Q: What’s the difference between ECE and CS?
We describe EE, CE, and CS as part of a spectrum of topics. You can find where you fit in based on topic of interest. They aren’t as disjoint as you may think!