Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO 64468

“It may not seem immediately apparent, but possessing a solid foundation in using daily technology can greatly smooth a student’s transition to college academics. In order to be successful, there are a few technical skills students should develop long before reaching college.”

1. Typing ability: Accurate and swift typing is essential as the more time you require at the keyboard, the longer you will take to complete assignments.

2. Online etiquette skills: A good rule of thumb is to always remain formal, such as addressing a professor as Dr. if they have a Ph.D. or otherwise as Mr. or Mrs. In your use of social media, never post anything that you would be embarrassed to show your grandmother.

What’s All This Talk About STEM? – by Kiki Prottsman

“A 2011 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce states that over the past decade, the number of jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields had grown three times as fast the number of jobs in other fields. Current research shows that people who have a STEM related degree actually earn more in their careers.”

3. Software suite basics: While there are a multitude of options available, the best known is Microsoft Office. If you master simple skills in Microsoft Office, this knowledge base easily transfers to other suites like Google Drive or OpenOffice. Set aside an hour to click through each drop-down menu and discover your chosen program’s wide array of functions.”

If you are unsure of what a respectful email to a professor should look like, use Purdue’s Online Writing Lab. There you can find stellar tips for email etiquette that you can apply to future communications.”

“National TRIO Day” will be held on the Northwest campus on February 22, 2014. Check out the flyer on UBMS Facebook for details. We hope you can come and celebrate TRIO programs with us. Karen

ACT Test Dates
April 12, 2014
June 14, 2014

From: Number2.com
(ACT prep cite)

If \( n = 1 - 2 \), what is \( \frac{1}{n} + n^3 \)?

a. -2
b. -1
c. 0
d. 1
e. 2

(Answer on page 4)

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“Below you will find a few steps that can get you on your way to being STEM ready…”

“Start Simple. First, try a little bit of each area of STEM. Don’t be shy about starting at the beginning…”

“Practice Math. If you think that math is your thing, watch a few ViHart videos. If that doesn’t light your fire, then you may want to look at another subject. “

“Explore Engineering. You can get a basic idea of what engineering is all about by watching some simple videos. Beginner-level projects are plentiful, and a lot of fun.”

“Tackle Technology. Technology is the golden goose of all subjects at the moment. You can put yourself at the head of the pack by getting an early-ish start. Head to CSisFun.com and start working your way through the activities.”

“Look into Other Sciences. Follow a blog like Science Daily and see which posts you like.”

Posted January 16, 2014
February College Planning Tips - from ICAN

**Sophomores:**
*Start thinking about college majors. What matches your skills and interests?*
*Saving money is the best way to prepare for the cost of a college education. What are the best ways for you to save? Make a spending plan for yourself and set aside a certain dollar amount each month to help pay for college.*
*If you’re an athlete hoping to play sports in college, it’s important to begin planning. Find out what the NCAA academic requirements are at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net and check with your school counselor for more information.*

**Seniors:**
*Make sure you first semester transcripts have been sent to the college(s) you’ve applied to.*
*If you haven’t already submitted your FAFSA, you should do so as soon as possible.*
*Watch out for deadlines, including your college’s priority filing deadline and any scholarship deadlines that apply to you.*
*Keep copies of your completed federal tax returns handy. Be prepared to mail them to your college(s) if they are requested.*
*Promptly respond to document requests made by colleges.*

**Juniors:**
*Soon you will be completing college and scholarship applications. Put together a resume listing your activities, awards, school achievements, employment and volunteer experience.*
*Investigate careers.*
*Make sure your senior year includes the credits needed to meet college entrance requirements. Talk to your school counselor about Advanced Placement course and CLEP tests.*
*If you are planning on taking the April ACT test, register now.*

**College:**
*Getting Enough Sleep.* Between working, studying and social activities, an early bedtime can be pretty hard to stick to. The average college student should be getting between seven and nine hours’ sleep each night. So if you have an 8 a.m. class, you really shouldn’t be up until 2 a.m. each morning. Short naps can help, but if you sleep longer than 30 minutes during the day you may have trouble sleeping at night.

*Making Smart Choices.* You know what’s smart (and legal) when it comes to drugs and alcohol. You’ll also find yourself in situations where you may want to join in. Only you can decide what to do, but remember that your main goal right now is to succeed in college, which is hard enough without the problems caused by substance abuse.
*Eat a balanced diet.* Remember the food pyramid? ‘Tips for healthful eating’ may help you stay on track.

From: www.icansucceed.org
Every day you come in contact with many machines. There’s the clock radio that wakes you up, and the car, bus or bike you take to school. You use calculators, computers, stereos, and phones throughout the day. Finally, you come home and use the microwave, stove, refrigerator, and electric can opener as you help with dinner.

Our lives are a lot easier today, thanks to the mechanical engineers who imagined and built these tools. In a world where we depend on machines more than ever before, mechanical engineers keep things running.

Did you know?
Mechanical engineers are working in the cutting-edge field of nanotechnology, developing high-performance materials and devices the size of molecules.

Robots may soon be doing everything from preparing meals to mowing lawns.

Did You Know...?
It’s not enough to come up with the next best thing. MEs have to come up with one that can be built quickly and at low cost.

Outlook
Government economists expect jobs for mechanical engineers to be slower than the average for all careers through 2020. Opportunities will vary by industry. For example, these professionals should be in demand in architectural and engineering firms. They will also be needed to design new vehicles and machinery for various industries. Your opportunities will be best if you have experience with the latest software and stay updated on the newest technologies.

Compensation
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average yearly salary of:

**Mechanical Engineers:**

$83,550 in 2011.

Mechanical engineers develop, build, care for, and improve tools, machines, and systems.

Are you ready to.....?
* Design new gadgets and improve old ones
* Be part of a team
* Read reports and interpret data
* Present your ideas to others
* Focus on details while checking for problems and safety issues
* Keep learning new skills and technologies

It helps to be...
A creative, curious, and logical problem solver. Mechanical engineers need to be visual thinkers who can turn data and theories into useful devices.

Make High School Count
Preparation is the key to any career. To become a mechanical engineer you should:
* Take advanced math and physics.
* Sign up for computer-aided drafting and design.
* Work on your writing skills—you’ll need to write reports that explain your ideas.
* Take shop class. You’ll need to know how machines and tools work.
* Study a foreign language. That way, you’ll be ready to cope in an increasingly global manufacturing industry.

-bigfuture: by the 2013 The College Board
Online research chops: It will be essential to your success in college to know how to properly use the Internet.

If you do not have a school reference database, use Google Scholar to ensure you are searching through credible material. Make sure you use nouns instead of pronouns and action verbs when entering search terms.

In addition, make sure the websites you use are credible. Do this by checking the references listed in the provided article, as well as the domain name. Websites ending in .gov, .org, and .edu domains are generally more reliable than other extensions.

Privacy and security awareness: Consciously practice privacy on the computer and Internet at all times. When utilizing social media, remember to thoroughly review all privacy policies. Additionally, choose unique passwords and periodically change them.

Meghan Moll is a professional science, math and ACT tutor with 'Varsity Tutors'. She has a degree in biomedical engineering from 'St. Louis University' – USNews.com/education January 27, 2014.