

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering

## ECE 120: Introduction to Computing

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### An Incomplete List of Advice for Sophomore Systems Builders

### Advice #1

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Take on a big project during  
your next few years.

### Advice #2

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Learn to use a debugger.

### Advice #3

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Don't put off learning about tools  
(make, svn, python, Matlab, etc.).

## Advice #4

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Avoid optimizing prematurely.

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## Advice #5

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Build. Burn. Rebuild.

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## Advice #6

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The best designers are the best testers and debuggers.

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## Advice #7

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Good code is like good prose.

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## Advice #8

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Take on a big team project during your next few years.

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## Advice #9

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Don't be afraid to break things.

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## Advice #10

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Turn drudge work into opportunities for invention.

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