Tips for Students

- Take as many structural courses as you can in school.

- Become thoroughly familiar with the many applicable code books which govern the structural engineering discipline.

- Make yourself familiar with the code book tables. Time is money and the AISC Steel Manual has a lot of valuable tables that speed up design/analysis.

- Understand load paths and connections. Software can design the major members but garbage in, garbage out.

- Proofread everything. Structural errors may result in costly damage, litigation, injury, or even death, so check your work!

- Find a good study group and mentor (if possible). Projects are designed in teams and start to work in them as often as possible.

- Apply for an internship with a consulting or construction firm.

- The Structural Engineering (SE) exam has the lowest pass rate of all the engineering disciplines. Study hard if you want to be licensed.

- The willingness to learn should not stop when you leave school.

- Though technical understanding is a big focus for the first few years on the job, developing soft skills can also play a key role in your career advancement.

- Participate in outside organizations beyond your place of employment.

- Develop a good network with other engineers and ConE's.

- Always be open to learning something new and expanding what you know, even in the smallest way.

- Communication is critical to the success of every job and project – both written and verbal.

- People tend to be more successful doing something they are passionate about.