

# Top Ten List for a Successful Engineering Career

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1. Get an **advanced degree**. Advanced degrees open doors to the best firms and the best assignments within firms.
2. Commit to a **lifetime of continued learning**. Be proactive in educating yourself and don't expect your employer to spoonfeed knowledge to you.
3. Develop your **communication skills** starting today; your success and advancement depend on your ability to **listen**, **speak**, and **write**.
4. Make certain you fully understand the **scope** of each assignment - ask questions.
5. Make certain you know the **schedule** for each assignment - when is your work due?
6. Make certain you know your **budget** for each assignment - how much time does your supervisor think it will take you to complete your work?
7. **Don't be afraid to make mistakes**. The only people who don't make mistakes are those who either are afraid of mistakes (which can be paralyzing) or are not doing much work!
8. **Don't make a habit of making mistakes**. Learn from your mistakes and ask your supervisor and coworkers to help you learn "rules of thumb" and other techniques for self-checking.
9. **Take the P.E. exam** and pass it as soon as you are eligible. This credential is essential in our business and is an important demonstration of your skill and drive.
10. **Enjoy the camaraderie** within the engineering community. Join professional organizations. Get to know your contemporaries, both in your firm and at other firms. Give back to the profession by writing papers and joining committees.