

CASA First-Year Family Newsletter

January/February 2024 Issue



Welcome to the CASA First-Year Family Newsletter! This opt-in newsletter will be sent out three times per semester to help keep parents, families, and guardians up-to-date on academic advising for the first-year student. We will feature different advisor profiles, academic services, tips to support your student, programs, and important dates each month.

Important Dates

- First day of classes - January 9th
 - MLK Holiday (campus closed) - January 15th
 - Last day to ADD courses - January 16th
 - Census Day, last day to DROP courses - January 24th
 - Career Days - January 30th-31st
 - President's Day Break (campus open, no classes) - February 19th-20th
 - Click [HERE](#) to see the full academic calendar online
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Advisor Highlight:

Yonas Hagos

Yonas Advises first-year students with last names R-Z




About Yonas: Born in Ethiopia and raised in Colorado. First person in my family to complete a bachelor's degree at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs as well as my Master's in Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education. I have worked in higher education for almost a decade.

Advice from Yonas: Don't be afraid to fail, failure is an opportunity to grow. You can always try again. There is more than one way to be successful. Come to CASA where there is tutoring, core review, Bounce Back, and Faculty in CASA as well Peer Advisors that will be there to promote your success. Favorite things about Golden are the great hiking trails.

Student Staff Highlight:

Jocelyn Rico-Sullivan

CASA Peer Advisor



About Jocelyn: Embracing the rich academic environment and community life at Mines, I've dedicated myself to contributing positively to our campus culture. I am a Peer Advisor in CASA and a mentor in the Mirror Mentoring at Mines program. I am part of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers where I stand with my peers to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive community in STEM fields.

Advice from Jocelyn: To the parents of students, your support is invaluable. Encourage your student to embrace the unique challenges Mines offers. Remind them of the importance of balance - achieving academic success while also taking care of their mental and emotional well-being. They need not only your encouragement, but also your support. For students, challenges are stepping stones to your future success. Don't hesitate to reach out for guidance, there are numerous resources here to help you. Embrace the Mines community. The friendships and connections you make here will be valuable throughout college and beyond. Your journey at Mines is more than an academic endeavor, it's an opportunity to grow, learn, and pave the way for a successful and fulfilling career.

Tips and Tricks to Help Your Student

- A new year and a new semester is a great time to help your student develop new goals for the term. Some things to think about when setting new goals:
 - Reflect on last semester and good habits you want to continue and you'd like to improve upon.
 - Come up with 1-3 goals to focus on. Adding new habits or goals one at a time over time can help with making good habits last. Too much at once can be overwhelming.
 - Think about possible obstacles that might be encountered during the term and think of 2-3 strategies to help navigate the obstacle. Planning in advance for go-to strategies can help prevent stress when the semester gets busy.
 - Write down your goals and track your progress. Check in with yourself periodically and make adjustments to your goal or plan as needed.
 - Celebrate the wins! Even if things didn't go exactly as planned, be proud of the progress made.
- Major exploration is a big part of being a first-year student. First-year students will be invited to formally declare their major of choice at the end of April. This semester is a great time for your student to narrow down to their chosen major. Most majors start major-specific coursework in the first semester of sophomore year. If your student doesn't know exactly what they want to major in yet, that is ok! There are a lot of resources to help students explore:
 - The [Mines Catalog](#) has degree listings, course descriptions, and university policies.
 - [Departmental websites](#) provide great major overviews, degree plans, faculty highlights, and more.
 - The [Career Center](#) has great information on different STEM careers, salary outcomes, and industries that recruit here at Mines.
 - CASA will be hosting a Major Exploration Fair later this semester. Stay tuned for more details.
- CASA offers great online resources for time management, study skills, and academic wellness. Click [HERE](#) for the full list of resources.
- All first-year students are enrolled in our advising Canvas course. Canvas will have information on degree plans, registration, academic policies, minors, and more.

Academic Support: Faculty in CASA



We believe faculty and staff should work collaboratively to assist our students. The Faculty in CASA program breaks down traditional and structural barriers with faculty and students inhabiting mutually shared commons. Each semester, professors host their faculty office hours within the CASA office. While in the office, faculty may assist students, provide guidance, support, and content review.

<https://www.mines.edu/casa/academic-support/faculty/>

Check out these programs!

Computer Science

Computing impacts almost every aspect of modern life and plays an important role in many technological advances. Our curriculum reflects a mixture of theory and practice including discrete structures, design and analysis of algorithms, principles of programming languages, computer architecture, operating systems, and software engineering.

<https://cs.mines.edu/cs-undergraduate-program/>



Design Engineering

The Design Engineering program rethinks the way that engineering is taught, learned, and practiced. Through coursework focused on real-world design experiences, Design Engineers combine traditional and technical engineering skills with creative problem solving techniques and design thinking in order to create innovative solutions to the world's largest and most complicated problems. Design Engineers chart new pathways through old problems and change the way the world looks in the process.

<https://eds.mines.edu/design-engineering/>

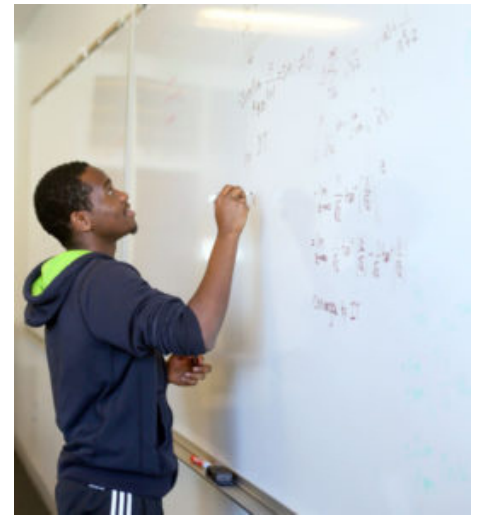


Applied Mathematics & Statistics

Mathematics is everywhere. A degree in mathematics will prepare you for jobs in statistics, actuarial sciences, mathematical modeling, cryptography, and mathematics education as well as for graduate school leading to a research career in engineering, mathematics, or statistics.

Graduates from our program have found employment with many different types of companies including technology, engineering, and financial companies.

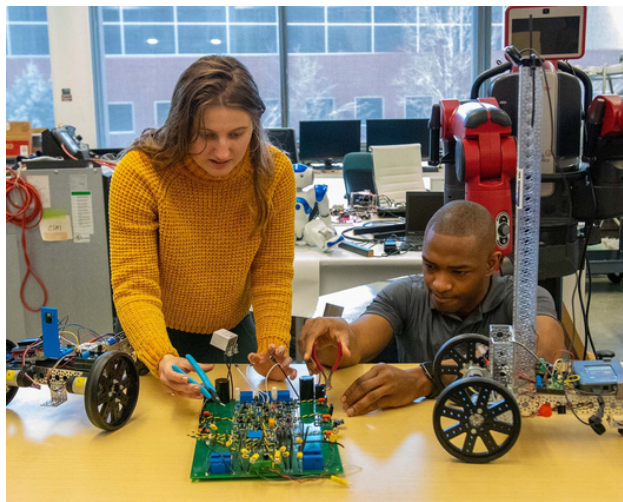
<https://ams.mines.edu/undergraduate-programs/>



Electrical Engineering

The Electrical degree at Mines caters to various industries including electric power and energy, renewable energy, aerospace, communications, robotics, and divers industries that rely on embedded intelligence to manage data and systems. Students graduate with relevant and cutting edge technical knowledge in the areas of energy systems and power electronics, antennas and wireless communications, information and systems sciences, and integrated circuits and electronics.

<https://electrical.mines.edu/undergraduate-program/>



FERPA - Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act of 1974

The Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records, affording them certain rights with respect to those records. FERPA gives students who attend Mines the right to inspect and review their own education records.

Furthermore, students have other rights, including the right to request amendment of records and to control the disclosure of personally identifiable information from those records.

<https://www.mines.edu/compliance/ferpa/>

Contact CASA

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