

Engineering Your Undergrad • SWE WE Local 2020

Impact Categories

Leadership Service Technical Skills
Project Management Communication Awards and Scholarships

1. Impact Exercise

1. Make a list of everything you are or have been involved in during college. Leave room between each line to add more information in the following steps.
2. Under each thing you are involved in, list any leadership position you've held, activity you participated in and skill you learned.
3. Look over this list and ask these questions: Does this activity support my goal? Does this activity benefit me in proportion to my time spent there? Try to identify one thing you could potentially take off of your plate.
4. Go through the list again and consider how each item fits the "Impact Categories" above. Are there any categories missing? Do you have more than 3 that only hit one specific category?
5. For each item on the list, write one way you could increase your impact, and how you will measure that impact.
6. For each missing "Impact Category", list one way you could gain experience in that area.

Where to Look

Get Involved Read your emails Ask professors and peers
Conferences Social Media Google

2. Recommendations

1. Make a list of people who could potentially write a recommendation letter.
2. For each person, write one way you could improve your relationship with that person.
3. Match the experiences you listed above to the recommender who could speak to that experience.
4. When you ask for the letter, include the specific experience you want them to talk about including your quantifiable accomplishments and your resume.

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Example

1. Impact

Step 1: List Experiences

1. **Society of Women Engineers** Leadership

Texas State VP of Programs – Organized 2 outreach events, raised funds for our section, implemented a new officer training program
SWEFL, SWE WE Local wards judge

Step 2: List the details

2. **Internships – NASA Ames** Technical Skills & Communication

Developed a Simulink model of an electronic speed control system used in a larger model
Contributed to 1 publication as a result of this work
Presented my work at a poster session

3. **Undergraduate Research** Technical Skills & Communication

Developed an atmospheric water generator that was 20% more efficient than commercial systems
Contributed to 3 papers on this work and presented at a conference

4. **Competitive coding camp**

Step 3: I know I want to work in hardware so this may not be the best use of my time

5. **Volunteer with Girlstart** Service

Volunteer 1-2x per year at STEM outreach events

Step 4: Which impact category does this support?

Step 5: Increase your Impact

To increase my impact with SWE I will organize at least one more outreach event.

I will measure this impact by counting the number of students who attend the event and the number of volunteers I organize.

Step 6: Missing Categories

From the list, I am missing the awards/scholarships category and the project management category.

This year I will apply for and / or ask someone to nominate me for 3 scholarships or awards through SWE or my university.

I will also apply to be the project lead on my capstone project, or find a way to communicate my SWE experience as project management experience.

2. Recommendations

Step 1: List Potential Recommenders

Dr. A (Undergrad Research Supervisor)

Step 2: Improve Relationship

- Tell them I am interested in going to grad school
- Ask if I can help train students who are new to the research group

Steps 3 & 4: Match and Ask

“...Would you be able to write me a recommendation letter that discusses my success in your research program, my publications and presentations and my experience training new students?”

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