

Interview with an entrepreneur

<3. BALANCE YOUR CLASSES, AND GET HELP IF YOU NEED IT

One classic freshman mistake is to pack your schedule with difficult classes because heavy course loads are common in high school. Bad idea. After all, you also have dorm and campus life to adjust to.

Balance your schedule with hard and easy courses.

“When I made my first semester schedule directly out of high school, I thought my course load should be about the same, so I took things like calculus and economics along with my language requirement,” Kolkmeier says. “It was a lot to take on while dealing with a new roommate and a new school. Take it slow so you can get used to college life.”

If you start running into trouble with a class or assignment, do not hesitate to contact your academic advisor or seek help from tutors, peers, or academic groups on campus.

<4. SCHEDULE YOUR CLASSES IN A BLOCK



Alex Langton, a freshman at St. Vincent College (stvincent.edu), had his first-semester classes scheduled in a block from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

“It was definitely better than what I thought it was going to be,” he says. “I’m not normally an early morning person, but once I got my schedule down, I realized I only had to go to class from this time to this time, and then I had the rest of the day to do whatever I wanted.”

Furest agrees that blocking courses together is a good idea.

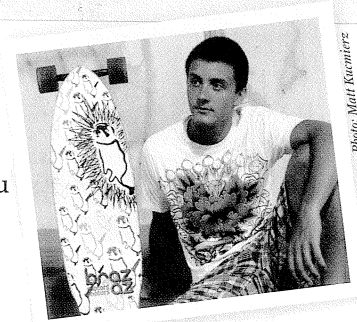
“I live off campus, so I always try to schedule classes together because I don’t want to have to go back and forth between my apartment and school,” she says. ¶



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Matthew J. Brazeau, a freshman at Milwaukee School of Engineering (msoe.edu), founded Brazeau Engines, a company that makes electric skateboards, while in high school.

Q: Why did you start BrazMotors?

A: I was the kid who went home after soccer or football practice and would take every radio controlled car, air-plane and boat apart to discover their mechanical/electrical systems. When I bought my first electric scooter, creating custom scooters and mini electric motorcycles became my new obsession.

Before I knew it, my 11-year-old mind had driven me to make my skateboard fully electric.

After my fourth electric skateboard, I found myself with investors, multiple publications in the local newspaper for the work I’d done, and winning first place in a national entrepreneur’s competition in Rochester, N.Y.

Q: What can a high school student do to learn more about being an entrepreneur?

A: I stumbled across a flyer for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA), a program that guides its students through creating their business plan and receiving financial support to start their business.

This program definitely changed my life. During the course, I met with successful business owners. By hearing their life experiences, I was able to improve my own.

Q: How can young business people get respect?

A: Never let anyone tell you that your age is a constraint. From my own experience, people love to see someone of a young age take on such responsibility, and the help and support I have received continues to blow my mind. ¶