University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering

ECE 120: Introduction to Computing

An Incomplete List of Advice
for Sophomore Systems Builders

Advice #1

Take on a big project during
your next few years.

Advice #2

Learn to use a debugger.

Advice #3

Don't put off learning about tools
(make, svn, python, Matlab, etc.).

Advice #4

Avoid optimizing prematurely.

Advice #5

Build. Burn. Rebuild.

Advice #6

The best designers are the
best testers and debuggers.

Advice #7

Good code is like good prose.

Advice #8

Take on a big team project
during your next few years.

Advice #9

Don't be afraid to break things.

Advice #10

Turn drudge work into
opportunities for invention.