Alternate ECE 400 Assignment #2:
Graduate School Statement of Purpose (SOP) Assignment
Due: October 16

Description:
For this assignment, your task is to write a paper describing your readiness to attend a <u>particular</u> graduate program.

Content:
This document should include **specific and relevant** evidence of your preparation and interest in attending a <u>particular</u> graduate school via references to skills and experiences you have had. Although there will be some overlap in your statements of purpose for various programs, each SOP must demonstrate that you have done research about that specific program and you can show why you are a good fit for the program. This also means that you <u>must</u> address any specific topics or questions which appear in the program's SOP instructions. These could include, but are not limited to, course projects; internships, Co-Ops, or jobs; research; publications; extracurricular activities; and computer skills. If you need to cite any sources, do so according to IEEE format (www.ieee.org).

Purpose: To make a strong case for your admission to a particular graduate program

Audience: The graduate admissions committee, composed of faculty of a program to which you are applying
- What do they need to know about you? What concerns might they have about you that your statement can address?
- Remember that an admissions committee outside of Purdue will not be familiar with ECE course numbers, curriculum, or faculty; use course titles rather than numbers and refer to any professors by their first and last names (ie., "I did research the under supervision of Prof. Mimi Boutin")

Format:
<u>Your paper should adhere to the format specified to the graduate program to which you are applying. The length should be whatever the program requires</u> Write in complete sentences and paragraphs using 12 pt. Times New Roman font, unless otherwise specified. You should write in the first person. Upload your paper under SafeAssign on **Blackboard** and submit a paper copy in class by the due date.

Special Requirement for the SOP:
If you choose to write an SOP, you <u>must</u> staple a copy of the SOP instructions you are using so that the grader can determine how well you satisfied them.

Grading Criteria:
Your assignment will be graded out of 100 points; see the Writing Rubric for the grading key.

Helpful Resources:
- Purdue's CCO Handbook – www.crmpubs.com (pp. 38-39)
- Purdue Online Writing Lab – www.owl.purdue.edu (look under "statement of purpose")
- Graduating Engineer.Com – www.graduatingengineer.com (look under "statement of purpose")

For in-person help, you may contact
- Joanne Lax (jlax@purdue.edu; 494-0621)
- The Writing Lab (494-3723; 226 Heavilon Hall)
  ***Writing Lab tutors are also available on-site every Wednesday night (6:00-9:00)   in the MSEE Atrium