

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Engineering Career Services

Benefits of Having an Engineering Co-op or Internship

1. Enhanced career exploration and clarification of career goals.
2. Practical work experience that supplements classroom learning.
3. A greater understanding and appreciation of educational needs and objectives.
4. Opportunities to develop interpersonal and group communication skills.
5. Professional networking opportunities and the establishment of professional contacts.
6. A greater sense of responsibility, self-confidence, and maturity.
7. Employment in an engineering capacity with appropriate compensation that helps defray college expenses.
8. Generally, results in more full-time opportunities upon graduation

Cooperative Education: is a single work term of a semester or a semester plus a summer of engineering related work.

Internship is ten or more weeks of engineering related work during the summer.

Student Guide to Internships: <http://www.engineering.iastate.edu/ecs/files/2015/02/Student-Experiential-Education-Guide-Jan-2015.pdf>

Engineering Career Services * 515 294-2540 * ecs@iastate.edu * www.engineering.iastate.edu/ecs/

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Engineering Career Services

Benefits of Registering an Engineering Co-op or

1. **A higher quality learning experience.** We work with employers to help ensure that:
 - Supervisors understand that co-ops and internships are different from normal part-time/summer jobs. They are learning experiences that occur during the accomplishment of real engineering-related work.
 - You are assigned a significant amount of engineering-related tasks so you can develop your engineering competencies.
 - You are provided the proper level of guidance/mentoring to be successful and that your work is adequately reviewed.
 - You are provided feedback on your engineering competencies so you can build on your strengths and improve your weaknesses.
2. **Assistance if you have problems with your employer or co-workers.**
ECS and/or your academic advisor is available to assist or guide you if the employer doesn't provide the work experience promised or you have safety or other concerns. Advising is also available if you want to discuss how to handle a workplace issue.
3. **Documentation of the experiential education experience on your resume.**
Internships that are noted on transcripts and not just on a resume, are viewed as more professional because they are part of an accredited academic program. Similarly, state licensing boards will often count the hours worked as part of an accredited educational institution supervised co-op or internship towards the work experience requirements needed for a P.E. license.
4. **Full-time student status is maintained without paying tuition and fees.**
Scholarship awards and financial aid are protected and delayed to the next semester.
5. **Your employer benefits from the visibility.**
Your employer benefits from being included in reports resulting in increased name recognition with current and prospective students. The employer is also recognized by College leadership for the contribution it is making towards the development of engineering talent.
6. **Your classmates benefit from your feedback.**
Feedback that you provide in assignments helps ECS identify employers that are offering quality co-ops and internships, and those that need coaching to improve their programs.

Engineering Career Services * 515 294-2540 * ecs@iastate.edu * www.engineering.iastate.edu/ecs/