

Student and Employer Benefits of Participating in Co-op

Student Benefits of Participating in the Cooperative Education (Co-op) and Internship Program:

- **Official transcript recognition** – shows that the university deemed your internship/Co-op experience to have had academic value
- **Provides access to state-of-the-art techniques and equipment** – take initiative and learn as much as possible about the industry, tools available, techniques, and equipment, as it will make you a better team member and give you an edge over your competition
- **Applies classroom theory to a realistic work setting** – often clarifies heavy textbook lingo into aha moments
- **Clarifies career goals** – either solidifies career goals, entices students to look deeper into a certain area of their major, or it may spark students to look at other career options – either way it's a win-win for the student
- **Develops professional relationships and network** – take advantage of this opportunity and talk with employers about what they like and dislike most about their positions, what they wish they knew when they were still in college about the workforce, and let them know your plans after graduation
- **Exposure to real world work and office culture** – often a great deal is learned about how to interact with professionals at various levels, how to deal with conflict, and how to work as a team while maintaining focus and professionalism
- **Possibility of full time employment after graduation** – focus on improving soft skills and taking advantage of all tools and resources available, as it could mean the difference between you being offered a full time position, or not

Employer Benefits of Hiring Students to Participate in the Co-op and Internship Program:

- **Provides pipeline** of highly motivated, alert, energetic students for future employment
- **Facilitates recruitment** and retention of employees
- **Students often find full-time employment** prior to graduation through Co-op and internship experiences; thus, reducing candidate pool for employers who do not participate in such programs
- **Provides an opportunity for employers to hire**, train, and develop the best students early in their academic career and utilize the Co-op as a trial run of the student
- **Students have a sense of loyalty** to Co-op employer and often like to remain part of the team
- **Enables company** to participate in and influence the educational process
- **Broadens company visibility** to students, faculty, and the community at large, as students discuss your company and increase brand recognition
- **Source of new perspectives** and insight on organizational issues and projects
- **Provides temporary help** for specific projects
- **Affords current staff the ability to supervise** and mentor others, allowing for professional, managerial, and leadership growth opportunities
- **Source of technology expertise**, as students are tech-savvy and easily find their way in and around programs and applications

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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