Cooperative Education Program

Chemical & Biological Engineering ~ University of Colorado

What is Co-op? Co-op is a professional development program that allows students to alternate work and academic terms beginning late in the sophomore year. Students complete three or more work terms and alternate these with academic terms, though the exact schedule can be tailored based on company needs. The addition of 3 work sessions adds one year to the student's graduation date, usually resulting in a 5-year plan. Two sample schedules are shown below; your actual co-op schedule may differ due to company needs.

Year	1st			2nd			3rd			4th			5th		
	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
Schedule A	A	A	INT	A	1	A	2	A	3	A	A	INT	A	A	
Schedule B	A	A	INT	A	A	1	A	2	A	3	A	INT	A	A	

#	Co-op Work Session
A	Academic Session
INT	Optional Internship

What are the program requirements?

- CHEN/CBEN major; sophomore or junior preferred
- Successfully complete Material and Energy Balances before first work session
- GPA > 2.75 (though > 3.00 is strongly recommended)
- Register for co-op course and pay registration fee of $650 for each work session
- At the end of each work session, submit a written report and supervisor evaluation
- Note: co-op will add one year to your academic schedule (usually resulting in a 5-year plan)

About employment

- Employers must arrange challenging and major-related work for the student, increasing technical involvement and responsibility as the student progresses
- By the end, job responsibilities should be similar to those expected of a college graduate
- Past employers: Bend Research, Chevron, TDA Research, Roche (now Corden Pharma), ConocoPhillips, Amgen, Genentech

What are the student benefits?

- Earn and learn: get paid during each work session ($17-$25/hr is typical)
- Become more marketable post-graduation (both to your co-op company and others)
- Receive a Cooperative Education Certificate and an official entry on your transcript
- Work yet keep your scholarship: get college credit / no time-out
- Confirm (or change!) your career choice
- Help improve your academic performance by relating it to your real-world experiences
- Obtain a more technical and immersive experience due to multiple and longer work sessions
- Apply your education to real-world problems using state-of-the-art equipment

How do I become a Co-op student?

- Submit your up-to-date resume to Co-op Coordinator Wendy Young (wendy.young@colorado.edu) before Sept 15, 2012 (strong suggestion: contact Career Services for help polishing your resume)
- Full resume packet is sent by Co-op Coordinator to interested employers soon afterwards
- Interviews will be arranged by employers at their convenience
- Offers will be made as employers determine their needs

Questions? http://www.colorado.edu/che/undergrad/coop.html ~ wendy.young@colorado.edu