Walter P. Murphy Cooperative Engineering Education Program – Graduate Students

History of Co-op at Northwestern University

During the 1930’s, Walter P. Murphy, a leading Chicago industrialist, gave Northwestern University $36 million to fund a school of engineering that would be “second to none.” His gifts carried the stipulation that the school, originally known as the Technological Institute, would require students to participate in Cooperative Education (Co-op). First implemented at the University of Cincinnati in 1906, Cooperative Education is an academic program which allows students to alternate periods of classroom study with periods of paid, practical work experience related to their degree program and professional goals. Northwestern University has continuously maintained a Co-op program since 1939, serving engineering students who have gone on to become leaders in the private, public and non-profit sectors. In 2013, the Co-op program was extended to graduate students.

Who Can Participate in the Co-op Program?

Graduate students who are in good academic standing may participate in a Co-op. Students may participate in co-op during ANY quarter of the year. You will be enrolled as a fulltime student, with no tuition charges.

How Do I Get a Co-op, and What Do I Do When I Get One?

1) Attend the MS Career Bootcamp prior to starting classes
2) Schedule a Graduate Initial Appointment with your Career Development Advisor
3) Work with a Career Development Advisor to create a strategy for your co-op search
   a. Apply for jobs using McCormickConnect, CareerCat and employer websites
   b. Attend Career Fairs, Company Days, Company Information Sessions, and other recruiting events
4) Interview for positions during McCormick Interview Day and other on-campus interviewing events
5) Accept an offer
6) Report your hire in McCormickConnect
   a. Upload your offer letter
   b. Schedule a Registration Meeting with your Career Development Advisor
7) After your meeting, your advisor will enroll you in a Cooperative Engineering Education course (CRDV410-x)
   a. Course maintains full-time student status
   b. Zero tuition, zero credit
   c. Experience appears on your transcript
   d. Submit an evaluation of your experiences for a Satisfactory (“S”) grade, which does not impact GPA
   e. Participate in a performance review process with your employer

Co-op Schedule Requirements

1. A minimum of 6 months (two quarters) of work with the same employer is expected

International Students:

For international students with F-1 visa status, the Cooperative Engineering Education Program is recognized by Northwestern University as Curricular Practical Training (CPT). CPT allows students to obtain less than one (1) year of work experience while pursuing an undergraduate degree. To apply for CPT, you must bring an application form and an offer letter to the Registration Meeting with your advisor. Additional information can be found on the International Office website.