What is the Engineering Research Experience Program?

By participating in the Engineering Research Experience Program at McCormick, students who are interested in career paths in research and academia have the opportunity to engage in a formal engineering research experience, either at a university (including Northwestern University) or a government laboratory. In order for an experience to qualify for the program, students must be doing research under the supervision of a Primary Investigator (PI).

Who Can Participate in the Engineering Research Experience Program?

Graduate students in good academic standing may participate in the Engineering Research Experience Program. Students may participate in this program during ANY quarter of the year. You will be enrolled as a fulltime student, with no tuition charges.

How Do I Participate in the Engineering Research Experience Program?

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 search
4. Interview and/or meet with organizations or agencies in which you are interested
5. Accept an offer
   a. Make sure that you have a supervisor who can evaluate your contributions to the research project
6. Report your hire in McCormickConnect
   a. Upload an appointment or offer letter from the agency or organization, stating what your engineering-related responsibilities will be
   b. Schedule a Registration Meeting with your Career Development Advisor
7. After your meeting, your advisor will enroll you in the Engineering Research Experience course (CRDV413-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 supervisor

International Students:

International students with F-1 visa status are eligible to work in a research capacity on campus without the need for Curricular Practical Training approval. For research positions off campus, you must apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). CPT allows students to obtain less than one (1) year of related work experience while pursuing an undergraduate degree. In order to apply for Curricular Practical Training, you must bring a CPT application form and an offer letter to the Registration Meeting with your advisor. Additional information can be found on the International Office website.