Engineering Projects in Service Learning – Graduate Students

What is the Engineering Projects in Service Learning Program?

By participating in the Projects in Service Learning program, students have the opportunity to volunteer their time and engineering skills for non-profit organizations.

Service learning is defined by the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as: “a method under which students or participants learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in and meets the needs of a community. . . .and that is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students.” Students who choose to participate in Service Learning at McCormick will work for a not-for-profit institution in an unpaid volunteer capacity.

Who Can Participate in the Service Learning Program?

All graduate students who are in good academic standing may participate in the Service Learning Program. Students may participate in a service learning experience during ANY quarter of the year. You will be enrolled as a fulltime student, with no tuition charges.

How Do I Participate in the Service Learning 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 in which you are interested
5. Accept an offer
   a. Make sure that you have a supervisor who can evaluate your contributions to the organization, its clients or the community
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 Projects in Service Learning course (CRDV412-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:

For international students with F-1 visa status, the Engineering Projects in Service Learning 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.