Co-ops and internships are an effective way for students to gain off campus work experience that compliments their academic education.

Our Definitions:

A **co-op** is a joint venture between the student, the university and the employer, and lasts a minimum of one academic semester. Students earn credit in an online course where they reflect on professional growth and work experiences while interacting with Career Services staff and other co-op students.

An **internship** is arranged by the student and the employer. It typically occurs during the summer and may be eligible for credit.

**COMPANY BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Students can work on significant long-term projects
- Your company and the student have the opportunity to evaluate each other for a long term commitment
- Early interactions with the students allows for multiple experiences with your company, leading to full-time offers and immediate on-boarding
WHAT YOUR COMPANY NEEDS TO DO:

- Maintain start and end dates that coincide within a window of time at the start and end of our academic calendar
- Sign a Cooperative Education Agreement form provided by the student
- The supervisor will need to conduct two reviews per semester, the student will provide the form and set up the meeting

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BEST EXPERIENCE FOR THE STUDENT AND YOUR COMPANY:

- Assign a mentor, that is not the supervisor, that the student will meet with on a regular basis
- Have the students work on daily tasks and major projects
- Set up opportunities for socialization with co-workers and other students
- Have your students wrap up their experiences with a presentation
- Conduct an exit interview

WHAT STUDENTS GAIN:

- Personal and professional opportunities for growth
- Networking and contacts for their professional careers
- Confidence in their field of study
- A chance to practice and improve teamwork and soft skills

WHAT CAREER SERVICES WILL DO:

- Support the company and students before, during and after the experience
- Process all paperwork before arrival (for domestic and international students)
- Check academic and conduct standing of students before arrival
- Host mandatory meetings for students before they arrive that focus on their responsibilities for a successful experience

“I gained a better understanding of engineering at Disney Parks and Resorts, along with growing my professional network with Disney engineers.”

—Ryan Thompson
Mechanical Engineering 19”
The Walt Disney Company, FL

Find a great match at www.joinhandshake.com, or contact Career Services for more information