

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Engineering Internship/Cooperative Education. The primary goal of an internship or cooperative education experience is to strengthen and enhance the theoretical knowledge gained through classroom or distance education-based experiences. The objectives of internships and cooperative education are to:

1. Provide students with opportunities to obtain professional industrial/government internships.
2. Prepare graduates for immediate professional assignments without further on-the-job training.
3. Provide a closer partnership between employers and the College of Engineering.
4. Help students determine which type of organizational structure and corporate culture best suits them.

Students in the program are required to enroll in internship or cooperative education courses while they are employed in industry/government. They continue to be governed by College and University regulations concerning professional conduct during the employment period. Students are normally paid wages/salaries by the employing agency.

The Engineering and Science Concepts Institute (ESCI) is an innovative intensive freshman summer program that introduces recent high school graduates to the professions of engineering, engineering technology, and computer science as viable career choices. The program will strengthen the students' understanding in mathematics, science, and engineering applications. The knowledge that the students learn in the program will help them be successful in their major fields, and be successful in the corporate environment. ESCI is designed to create a realistic awareness of the profession. Corporate partners, where feasible, are incorporated into the learning process.

The "team" concept is mirrored and students are placed in a "living-learning" environment. The program is committed to the beginning development of the whole individual. The goal is to develop individuals, yet stress that much of the success of the individual is directly dependent upon the performance of the group. There is a saying in corporate America that the "family who works and plays together, stays together"-- a belief system that becomes invaluable to the concept of team. Each ESCI student must aspire to "getting along with others and learning how to build consensus". First, this will be facilitated through the classroom experience and collaborative assignments where appropriate. Secondly, this will be accomplished through the living-learning center mentoring program that will facilitate team sports and group activities.