work and learn
cooperative education program
combine classroom education and practical work experience
work full-time and maintain student status

The co-op program is optional but highly recommended if you want the work experience that employers are looking for in new graduates. Cooperative education provides academic credit for structured job experience and helps students make the school-to-work transition.

- Get academic credit for full-time, real-world work.
- Gain experience in your field that enhances your résumé.
- Meet and learn from leaders in the industry.
- Show off your skills to a potential new employer.
- Be ready to step seamlessly into the work world.
- Develop social skills and maturity.
- Learn to make informed decisions and solve real-world problems.
- Expand your network and employment contacts.

the details

Cooperative education is a structured method of complementing classroom education with paid practical work experience. A cooperative experience—known as a co-op—will provide academic credit for job experience directly related to a student’s major. Cooperative education helps students make the school-to-work transition by providing real-world experiential learning.

Starting in your sophomore or junior year, you can begin terms of employment through the cooperative education program. You’ll be classified as a full-time student during each term you work full-time for an employer.

With this program, you can work full-time in your chosen field and still be on track to graduate in four to five years.
eligibility and requirements

To be eligible, you must:

• Be enrolled at ASU within the past 12 months.
• Be full-time, with at least 12-credit hours per semester for the past two semesters.
• Have completed 30-credit hours, with at least 12 at ASU.
• Major in an engineering discipline that participates in cooperative education.
• Complete at least one summer-fall or spring-summer co-op term at the bachelor’s level.
• Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all ASU coursework.
• Be in good academic standing.

International students with F-1 and J-1 visas are not eligible at this time.

To participate, you must:

• Complete the Co-op Degree Plan/Application form on Sun Devil CareerLink.
• Attend a co-op orientation/info session.
• Identify opportunities on Sun Devil CareerLink and meet with Engineering Career Center staff to complete the application process.
• Provide updated résumés and be prepared to interview.
• Be willing to accept positions in any geographic location.

Exceptions to the eligibility criteria will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Engineering Career Center.

Work Terms
You will complete one work term, with an option for a second. Terms are either summer-fall or spring-summer and are aligned with ASU’s academic calendar.

Student Status
Once you enroll in FSE 399 for one credit hour, you will be considered by ASU as a full-time student for the purposes of enrollment verification and loan deferment.

Scholarship issues such as deferment or reinstatement should be discussed with the scholarship office.

Evaluations
Faculty mentors and the Engineering Career Center monitor your academic progress and work performance. This provides a structured learning experience for both the student and employers.

Work Performance
Because this may be your first experience in a professional setting, you may not be aware when your behavior has a negative impact on the work environment. The Engineering Career Center asks employers to work with co-op participants to address performance issues. Students are expected to use the feedback provided by the employer to improve their professional demeanor. Contact the co-op advisor in the Engineering Career Center if you need assistance.