Chapter 3.3: Cooperative Education Program

Objectives & Goals

Objective: Grow Cooperative Education into a sustainable, self-funded program for undergraduate students while enhancing (1) student recruitment, (2) retention, (3) professional development, and (4) placement.

Goals related to growth in the Cooperative Education program are:

Goal: Eliminate barriers to entry for undergraduate engineering students interested in cooperative education

Goal: Develop a Cooperative Education Academic Plan of Study that supports students participating in the Co-op program

Goal: Offer career exploration through a paid work experience where course work is applied in an engineering setting

Goal: Be the preferred cooperative education program in the State of Colorado

Goal: Obtain accreditation of cooperative education program through ACCE

Strategies

Eliminate barriers to entry by institutionalizing cooperative education at CSU

• Gain part-time student status designation for co-ops on work rotation
• Formalize fee only co-op course that protects student’s insurance and financial aid without penalty to residency status
• Develop curricular academic plan of study that includes two work rotations incorporating one long semester
• Implement automated processes in Student Financial Services/Housing for co-ops on work rotation
• Assess current course offering/sequencing that limits student participation and make recommendations for additional offerings

Expand resources for co-op students preparing to enter the workforce

• Develop communication tools for defining and advertising cooperative education to students
• Adopt best practices in program administration, student preparation, and employer involvement
• Develop required sessions for co-ops entering the workforce
• Enhance and/or require PLI offerings to further prepare a co-op for entry into the private sector
• Provide a job database, career fairs, and networking events for students pursuing co-op employment

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• Create a communication and support network for co-ops on work rotation

**Develop relationships with our industry partners**
• Develop communication tools for defining and advertising cooperative education program to employers
• Educate and engage loyal, local employers in cooperative education
• Provide guidance and support for employers newly engaged in cooperative education
• Recruit top regional and national engineering employers to participate in CSU’s co-op program
• Aggressively place underrepresented students in existing national programs via engineering conferences
• Assess student work experiences to determine effectiveness of employer placements

**Metrics**
• Number of students applying to co-op program annually (leading indicator)
• Number of employer cooperative education partners (leading indicator)
• Number co-op work rotations annually (leading indicator)
• Percent of undergraduates participating in cooperative education (lagging indicator)
• Number of student graduating cooperative plan (lagging indicator)
• Conversion of co-ops into full time hires relative to placement rate of COE (lagging indicator)

**Targets**
• Twenty-five or more undergraduate students will complete co-op work rotations during FY’13
• Fifty or more undergraduate students will complete co-op work rotations during FY’14
• Seventy-five or more undergraduate students will complete co-op work rotations during FY’15
• One hundred undergraduate students will complete co-op work rotations each year by FY’16