Chapter 4.1: Graduate Career and Professional Development

Objectives & Goals

Objective: Increase and improve career & professional development opportunities for graduate students

Our two goals related to graduate career & professional development are:

Goal: Create an effective and sustainable professional development program for the College of Engineering, and

Goal: Increase the number of opportunities for graduate students to interact with prospective employers.

Strategies

Assess the needs of the engineering graduate student population
- Conduct an inventory of skills, knowledge, professional competencies and experience gaps that currently exist among our graduate students,
- Identify needs of graduate job seekers pursuing academic, research, tenure track and industry positions upon graduation
- Survey graduate student alumni to determine relevant professional development topics for current graduate students
- Implement COE placement and salary survey for MS/PhD graduates

Focus our efforts through cooperation
- Inventory existing campus professional development opportunities for graduate students
- Partner with TILT & the Graduate School to identify content providers and leverage College resources for workshops that may have greater campus impact
- Increase the number of professional development workshops targeted towards engineering graduate students
- Partner with university stakeholders to provide ethics infusion training required by NSF/ NIH
- Develop a job search tool kit for graduate students with Graduate School and Career Center

Concentrate marketing efforts of our graduate students to employers
- Conduct inventory of the top employers for our graduate students
- Identify and initiate conversations with employers who will hire our graduate students
- Expand involvement of graduate student in on campus recruiting activities

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1 Author: John Durkin
• Encourage graduate student involvement in career fairs, cooperative education, and international internships

**Metrics**

• Data from graduate school placement survey,
• Number of workshop offerings targeting graduate students,
• Number of employers recruiting graduate students

**Targets**

• The placement rate for graduate students will exceed 90% six months post graduation.