

Undergraduate Co-op and Internships 101: *The value of engaging in experiential learning*

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Georgia Tech Career Center

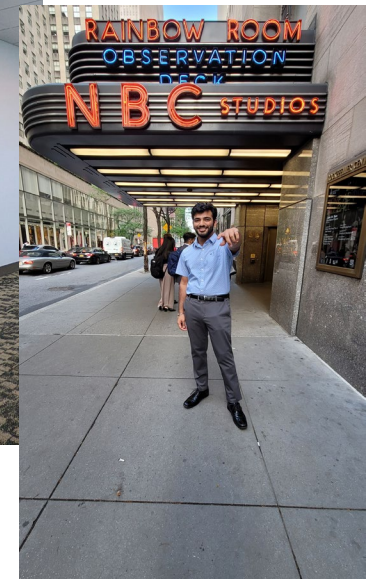
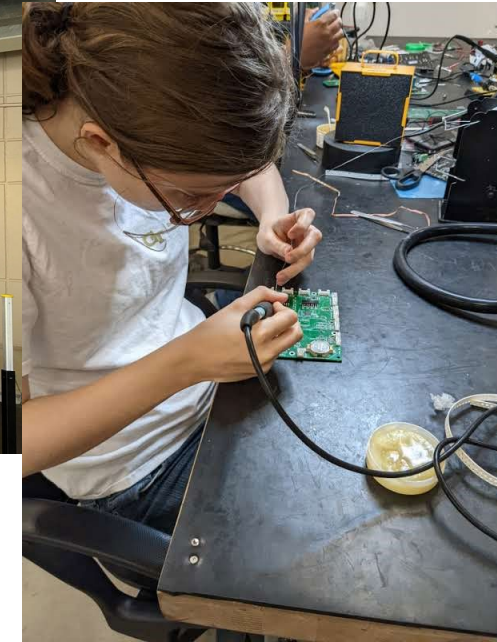
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What is Experiential Learning?

- Students connect theory with practice
- Explore career options
- Confirm or re-evaluate your major
- Develop workplace competencies/skills (technical and essential skills)
- Real-world experiences in a professional work environment
- Encourages reflection
- Build your resume



Impactful experiences



Yash Srivastava is a Robotics major who had an Internship with DroneUp, LLC this summer. They shared: I've contributed with optimizing the drone's comms with the base station.



Grace Trebilcock is a Mechanical Engineering major who had a Co-op with Draexlmaier this summer. I got to dive deep into root cause analysis using several Process Engineering tools and use numerous statistics and coding concepts to help improve the ultrasonic welding processes on a Flexline machine for rear door panels.



Namkhang Le is a Computer Science major who has an Internship with Citi this summer. They shared: An rising global surface temperatures and worldwide GDP. Using Python and Pandas for data cleaning with Tableau for visualization, my team and I were able to successfully show shareholders the importance and relevance that our planet has on the global economic equilibrium.



Alan Yeung is an Aerospace Engineering major who has an Internship with KBR Inc. this summer. They shared: I've loved being able to observe and work with US Visiting Vehicle Flight Controllers supporting critical flight missions to the ISS.



Sabrina Klein is a Chemical Engineering major who has an Internship with Celanese this summer. They shared: My favorite project so far has been optimizing a demineralization water system for both efficiency and cost using new programs and techniques I've learned through my internship!

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Cooperative Education

1. Since 1912
2. Undergraduate program
3. Directly related to field of study
4. Progressive Experience
5. 3 alternating work terms with same employers
 1. Fall/Spring -14 weeks
 2. Summer 8 weeks

1. Full-time work experience
2. Required Co-op course (tuition free)
3. Paid (average pay \$19-\$21/hour)
4. Co-op degree designation
 1. Over 30 co-op scholarships
 2. Briaerean Honor Society

“To me, cooperative education is essential to becoming a successful engineer or business leader. During my time with Area-I, I was consistently challenged to put my classroom studies to work and learned new skills that transferred directly to my studies. With such an improved understanding of my field, **I was able to excel in both school and my workplace. This program presents a fantastic opportunity to students who want real experience and an even stronger education.**”

Nicholas L. – Aerospace Engineering

Georgia Tech gives you access to the brightest minds and incredible academic resources, but don't overlook the wonderful connections that this school has with the local (and not-so-local) industries. **The Co-Op program has catalyzed both my professional and academic development, provided me with some amazing friends and connections, and I honestly couldn't recommend it more.**”

Bradley B. Electrical Engineering

Sample Co-op Schedules

At least three work terms are required (two must be in fall & spring)

Examples of 3-Term Schedules

Year	1	2	3	4
Fall Semester	Academic Studies	Work Term	Academic Studies	Academic Studies
Spring Semester	Academic Studies	Academic Studies	Work Term	Academic Studies
Summer Semester	Academic Studies	Work Term	Academic Studies	Academic Studies

Year	1	2	3	4
Fall Semester	Academic Studies	Academic Studies	Work Term	Academic Studies
Spring Semester	Academic Studies	Work Term	Academic Studies	Academic Studies
Summer Semester	Academic Studies	Academic Studies	Work Term	Academic Studies

Other scenarios are possible. Discuss specifics with your career advisor.

Internships

1. Complement co-ops
 2. Both grad and undergrad
 3. Directly related to field of study
 4. One semester long
 1. Fall/Spring -14 weeks
 2. Summer 8 weeks
- Various employers
 - Full-time/Part-time
 - Back-to-back experiences
 - Spring & Summer
 - Summer & Fall
 - INTN Course (tuition free)
 - Paid or Unpaid

“Participating in the Internship program has given me the wonderful opportunity to work for Walt Disney World. **It was invaluable to see what I am learning throughout my undergraduate career being implemented in a professional setting.** This program has also allowed me to pinpoint what areas I enjoy most within Industrial Engineering.”

Ashley D. – Industrial Engineering

“As an intern at Parsons, I learned many important aspects of the civil engineering industry and about myself. **The flexibility that Parsons granted me through part time work while completing school allowed me to learn how to better manage my time, improve my communication skills, and helped me financially through school.** In addition, being able to work while at school gave me another level of learning that helped prepare me for obtaining my engineer-in-training certification right after completing my undergrad, and providing me the tools to oversee major office projects day 1 as a new hire.”

Andrew G. – Civil Engineering

Eligibility Requirements

- GPA of **2.00** or above
- Good academic standing
- **Co-ops** – Must have at least three academic semesters remaining after the first work term
- Be enrolled full-time the semester prior to the first work term (Summer is an exception)
- Must complete Experiential Learning Application in [CareerBuzz](#)
- Freshmen have to complete one academic semester before applying
- Transfer students can apply during their first full-time semester

International students

Eligible to work under Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Must be in full-time status

Good academic standing

Co-op or internship directly related to major

Must have completed 2 academic semesters prior to working

Must be enrolled in the INTN or COOP course

Can start employment **only** when CPT issued

Please consult with OIE for OPT process (takes up to 90 days)

Co-ops or Internships?

CO-OP

- Really understand the company's culture
- One year work experience before graduation
- Shows investment in the company
- Be part of lengthier/evolving projects
- Build on your responsibilities
- Opportunity to work in more than one functional area of the company
- Higher conversion to full-time
- More senior level positions upon graduation

INTERN

- Experience more companies
- Gain knowledge of various industries
- Short term projects/sooner results
- Conversion to full-time
- Can choose one or more experiences
- More flexibility in pursuing other co-curricular activities/opportunities
- Gained varied industry expertise

IMPACT OF CO-OPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Value of Co-ops & Internships



- **Co-op & internship audit hours are tuition free; these keep you enrolled**
- **Registering a co-op or internship will make sure what you get paid doesn't impact FAFSA**
- **On average, co-op students make \$5,000 more per year in their starting salary**
- **Career Advisors can provide additional support throughout the experience**
- **On average, it only takes 1 more semester to complete a co-op**
- **These students tend to have higher GPAs and stronger career outcomes**
- **Earn money (avg \$19-21/hr for co-ops & internships)**
- **Shows up on your transcript**
- **Cancelation of housing if working 25+ miles or more from campus**
- **Co-op designation on your diploma and eligibility for co-op scholarships**

Experiential Education Impact (2022-2023)

4,220

Students registered in co-ops and internships with the Career Center



34%

*Accepted full-time employment with their co-op or internship employer

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US News & World Report
2022-23 Ranking of GT
internship & co-op student
experience

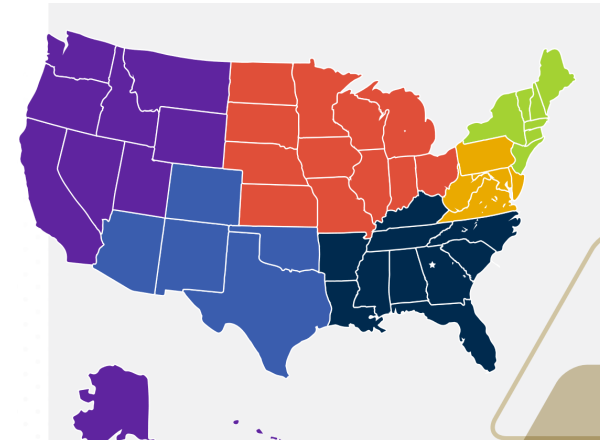
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The Princeton Review
2023 Top 20 Best Career
Placement
(Public Schools)

Compensation – Average Hourly Rates – AY 2022-2033

Hourly Rates by College	UG Co-op	UG Internship	Master's Internship	Ph.D. Internship
Computing	\$25	\$35	\$46	\$56
Design		\$23	\$24	
Engineering	\$21	\$26	\$36	\$47
Sciences	\$22	\$23	\$36	\$46
Ivan Allen (Liberal Arts)	\$23	\$18	\$28	\$34
Scheller (Business)	\$21	\$22	\$49	\$30

Region	UG Co-op	UG Internship	Master's Internship	Ph.D. Internship
South	\$21	\$23	\$30	\$37
West	\$27	\$36	\$47	\$55
Northeast	\$24	\$25	\$42	\$46
Southwest	\$23	\$30	\$37	\$37
Midwest	\$19	\$25	\$34	\$37
Mid-Atlantic		\$23	\$37	\$37



Applying for Co-ops and Internships

How can I find a co-op or internship?

1. [CareerBuzz](#)
2. [All-Majors Career Fair](#)
3. [GT Career Fairs](#)
4. [Employer info sessions](#)
5. [Virtual career fairs](#)
6. [Outside resources](#)

Tap into Reviews on Canary

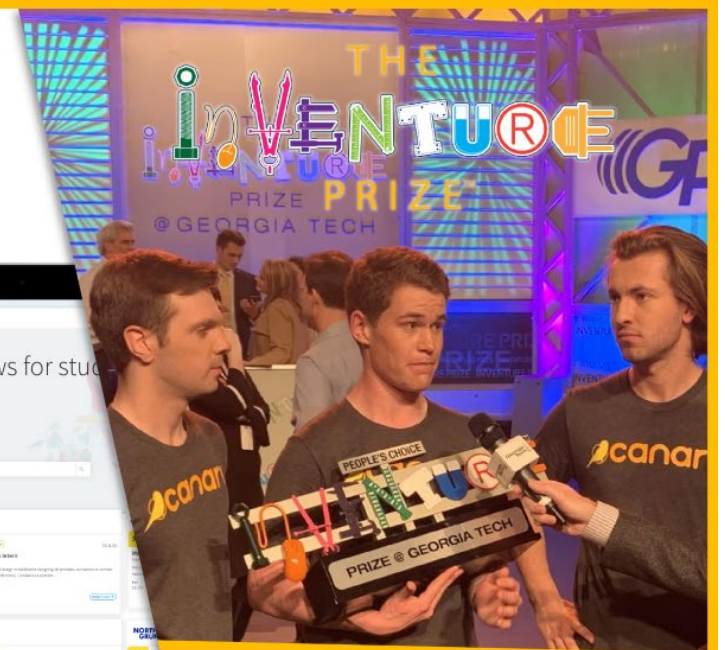
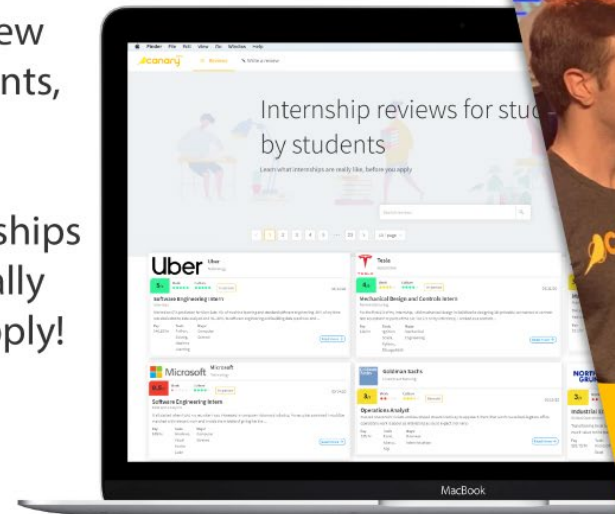


An internship review platform for students, by students.

Learn what internships and co-ops are really like, before you apply!

Proudly built at Georgia Tech.

Check it out at canarystudent.com!



Canary won People's Choice Award at the 2020 InVenture Prize

Career Center – Who We Are

The **Undergraduate Career Education Team** consists of **Career Development Advisors** (G/UG all majors) and **Career Educators** (UG major-specific) who are available to students through daily drop-in hours (during fall and spring semesters when classes are in session), 1:1 advising sessions (by appointment), and through Career Center-led presentations and workshops. The **Graduate Career Development Team** provides the same services and additional specialized services specific to master's and PhD students.

The **Experiential Learning** team is responsible for managing the Co-op and Internship programs, including registration of these experiences. For more information on how to register your co-op or internship, see the [Career Center website](#).

Undergraduate Career Education



Laura Colavito
Career Development
Advisor



Widalys Santiago Sosa
Career Development
Advisor



Amaka Nwoko
Career Development
Advisor



James Stringfellow
College of Sciences
Career Educator



Kyle Poe
Ivan Allen College
Career Educator



Camille Liverpool
Ivan Allen College
Career Educator



Davia Woulard
College of Design
Career Educator



Laura Garcia
Director of Undergraduate
Career Education

Graduate Career Development



Christina Hall
Graduate Career
Development Advisor



Gaeun (Gwenn) Seo
Director of Graduate
Career Development



Catharine Groover
Graduate Career
Development Advisor

Experiential Learning



Andrea Comsa
Director of Co-op &
Experiential
Education



Iteeah Pounds
Internship & Co-
op Program and
Operations
Manager



Ariel Gladney
Experiential Learning
Coordinator

Career Center - What We Do



Connect with Us!

Get immediate guidance on questions related to your job search at our **daily drop-in hours** – get your resume reviewed, work on interview prep, or ask for advice!

Drop-in Hours: 2:00pm - 4:00pm, Monday – Friday

*Bill Moore Student Success Center (when class is in session
Fall/Spring semesters)*

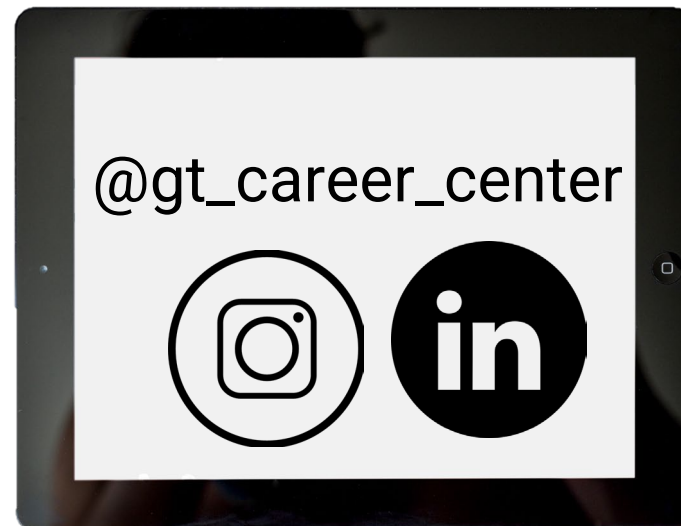
*Advising appointments can be requested via CareerBuzz with our Career Development Advisors and Career Educators (Design, IAC, Sciences).

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Fill out the
workshop evaluation:



Scan here for all
upcoming programs:

