Purdue University Co-op Student Survey Report
Office of Professional Practice
Spring 2019
Introduction

Dear Professional Practice Employers

This past semester the Professional Practice Ambassadors (PPA) developed and distributed a survey to current students in the 3-Session and 5-Session Co-Op Program. The survey covered a variety of questions ranging from salary statistics to housing information. Overall, the survey had a 31% response rate with 184 students responding. The intent was to allow PPA, the Office of Professional Practice (OPP), and employers to better understand the current status of the Co-Op program and gain insights from the students participating in it.

PPA hopes the details of this report are useful for the continuing improvement of the Co-Op program. This information may be used as a reference to what employers are providing to students and hopefully be used to make employer-student relationships even stronger.

Thank you from all the PPA members!

Who are the Professional Practice Ambassadors?

PPA is the student organization which supports the Office of Professional Practice. PPA is open to any students who are participating or have participated in the Co-Op program. PPA is built on three core goals: building awareness, mentoring students, and fostering relations. PPA members routinely volunteer for events that spread the word about the co-op program to students, administrators, and employers. In addition, PPA manages a mentoring program between current Co-Op student and those looking to join the program.

Recently, PPA, with the support of the OPP, has created and run an annual Networking Night between employers and students that occur in February during the annual Professional Practice Days. It is a great opportunity for students and employers to engage in a more casual environment than a career fair or interview. Employers can sign-up to attend Networking Night when registering for Professional Practice Days. For more information about this event please contact the Office of Professional Practice.
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Report Summary

Demographics:
- 98% of respondents are from engineering majors
- 48% of respondents did 5-session co-ops and 47% did 3-session co-ops

Salary:
- Average monthly 3-session co-op salary- $3,693
- Average monthly 5-session co-op salary-$3,871
- 90% of co-ops felt their salary was adequate
- 84% of co-ops received a pay increase for each work session

General Benefits:
- 62% of employers either provide housing or a monthly stipend
  - 21% of employers provide housing
  - 41% of employers provide a monthly housing stipend averaging $530
- 22% of employers provide paid time off
- 17% of employers reimburse the co-op fee
- 31% of employers allow participation in 401k, profit sharing, or stock purchasing
- 46% of employers provide a stipend for moving costs associated with each work session

Interview Information:
- Students average 1 interview when looking for a co-op
- Students on-average receive 1 co-op offer

Post-program:
- 78% of students would consider working full-time for their employer
- Over the past three years, 60% of the graduating seniors received a full-time offer from their co-op employer.
Survey Demographics

Survey Respondants' Majors

Number of Terms Completed
Detailed Salary Information

Hourly Wages for All Co-ops

- $14.00 or less: 5%
- $14.00 - $15.99: 5%
- $16.00 - $17.99: 8%
- $18.00 - $19.99: 17%
- $20.00 - $21.99: 25%
- $22.00 - $23.99: 18%
- $24.00 - $25.99: 11%
- $26.00 - $27.99: 4%
- $28.00 - $29.99: 3%
- $30.00 or more: 4%
**Housing Information**

- 62% of employers either provide housing or a monthly stipend
  - 21% of employers provide housing
  - 41% of employers provide a monthly housing stipend averaging $530
### Benefits
- 59 receive paid holidays
- 22% of employers provide paid time off besides holidays
- 17% of employers reimburse the co-op fee
- 31% of employers allow participation in 401k, profit sharing, or stock purchasing
- 46% of employers provide a stipend for moving costs associated with each work session
- 26% of employers provide medical benefits such as health, vision, or dental insurance
- 77% of employers pay overtime

Percentage of Employers that Pay Overtime

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<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Fall 2015</th>
<th>Spring 2017</th>
<th>Spring 2018</th>
<th>Spring 2019</th>
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<td>Percentage</td>
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Student Feedback

Student praises:

“They are all genuinely interested in the future of their company and willing to network/mentor co-op students.”

“I was truly treated like a real employee with real responsibilities, projects, money, and supervisor review.”

“The office and people are amazing. They really care about developing my skills and giving me work that I am interested in.”

“They consider the co-ops to be just as important part of the team as the other engineers, and don't take our training lightly, they're always willing to teach us and answer questions we have about the job/industry/personal and professional growth.”

“I love that I am able to learn how to use different types of programs and figure out earlier on what I like and do not like within the industry. The people who work there are also super knowledgeable and great to talk to!”

Student concerns:

“Not having enough work for me to do. Spent almost half of it sitting around doing nothing.”

“Availability to talk with people within the company was sometimes difficult.”

“I was expected to know a lot more than I did on my third rotation. While I was able to figure it out, some direction from my new boss would have been beneficial.”

“Some of the rotations have been stale and boring. Some groups have you just do one project that they throw away once you leave. Other groups have you work on lasting work, both are valuable ways to learn in their own way though.”

“Finding housing was a pain. Working with HR was never consistent. Big learning curve on both ends for coop program.”
**Experiences with the Employer**

**Adequate Job Training**

![Chart showing Adequate Job Training percentages over time]

**Employers Program is Flexible**

![Chart showing the number of student responses for Employers Program flexibility]

- Strongly Disagree: 6
- Disagree: 8
- Neutral: 31
- Agree: 60
- Strongly Agree: 75
Contact Information

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PPA would like to thank all Professional Practice employers for their continuing support of the program!