

Co-op ONLINE Session & Meeting

1. What is and Why a co-op?
2. Who can apply?
3. FAQ's
4. YOUR Next Steps

By attending today's virtual session you will have completed the "required" meeting with me.

- Ms. Thurman

What is a Co-op?

- An ACADEMIC* opportunity where students gain experience prior to graduation *Noted on transcript, **ENGR 3500** (0 credit hours)
- Full-time, approx. 40 hours a week (*we do not keep track of your hours*)
- Paid + some companies will provide benefits and/or relocation and/or housing assistance
- Students **must** 2 or 3 semesters (Spring, Summer and/or Fall)
- Students can start: early *January*, *mid-May* or *end of August* (*follow the school calendar with start & end dates*)
- Can do a *back-to-back + one* OR *alternating*
(for example: spring-summer + one, summer-fall, + one
OR spring, summer, fall- any combo but not in a row)

Why Co-op?

1. Gain Experience, Earn Top \$, Pay NO Tuition *\$60 fee & Maintain Full-Time Status (spring, fall)-which allows you to use the student services, live on campus and keep your health insurance (earn \$20-30/hr)
2. Co-ops: earn more job offers, hiring starting salaries and typically are more 'secure' with their decision on where to work upon graduation
3. Employers favor co-ops over interns, because they know it is a higher commitment level by the
4. For high demand industries or companies? Look for co-op positions
5. In the state of NC: co-op work sessions (NOT INTERNSHIPS) will count towards your "years of experience" needed to be a PE (Professional Engineer)
6. You can co-op ANYWHERE in the world or you can live on campus if you stay local

Who Can Apply?

- Undergraduates with an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher
 - *Students must continue to maintain GPA requirement during their co-op participation
- Completed freshmen/first year classes successfully (*may vary by major*)
 - *some depts want you “done” with the first semester of the 2nd year.
- Transfer students will need to have 12-13 credit hours completed. Again, will depend on your major when you are approved. **Every student's situation is slightly different.**
- Most students typically cannot do a co-op during their senior year.

FAQ'S

Q. Can I take classes and co-op? A. **It depends**

- The class cannot interfere with your standard, required work hours
- **Taking a class WILL result in a tuition bill/fee & any applicable student fees**
- Some students (who are out of the area) may choose to take an online or evening class a community college and transfer back the credit
- **You may not receive your full government financial aid to pay for your class**

Q. Am I penalized if I drop out of the co-op program after I complete my rotation?

A. **No but you may burn a bridge with that employer**

Q. Do I have to return to the same co-op employer?

A. **Ideally yes, BUT we need to know why you do not or cannot return for your next 'co-op work session'**

Q. Should I find a co-op opportunity then apply to the program?

A. **It depends**, if you meet the eligibility requirements then you can start looking for a co-op. You can always get approved by the college for a co-op then go look for one. You usually can adjust your co-op/school plans if the co-op requires you to.

YOUR Next Steps?

We partner with the Career Center (CC) to administer the Co-op Program

1) Get the **Required Course Plan Form**: visit career.charlotte.edu and search 'co-op'

[Cooperative Education Program | University Career Center \(charlotte.edu\)](https://career.charlotte.edu)

2) Complete it and email it to your academic co-op advisor **or** academic advisor (depends on your major)

3) Then, upload BOTH the signed form & offer letter to '[Experience](#)'. (An online tool: on Career Center website for co-ops)

4) Once approved, by me, Ms. Thurman & the CC, you can then get a permit to register for ENGR 3500
(**for every semester when you are working as a co-op**)

For your follow up or future co-op work sessions, just create another 'entry' in "Experience"

Still have questions or a unique situation?

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