

# Why you should consider an Engineering Co-op Degree

Since 1981, the University of Alberta's Engineering Co-op Program has been a national leader in cultivating talent and preparing students for the demands of an ever-changing global economy. Our passionate and engaged students learn from industry leaders and make meaningful contributions to their employers and communities. As a co-op student, you will have access to a committed team of employment professionals all working towards one goal – your success.

Co-operative education is defined by CEWIL, the governing body for co-op and work-integrated learning programs in Canada, as an education program that "consists of alternating academic terms and paid work terms... [that] provide experience in a workplace setting related to the student's field of study" (CEWIL, 2020). Students can take co-op degrees in all engineering specializations; we even have computer software which is only available as a co-op program. In fact, after a common first year, roughly 58% of students join the co-op program.

Over the years, we have helped tens of thousands of students gain real-world experiences that have enabled them to fast-track their careers. The possibilities are endless with Engineering Co-op. We can't wait to see where co-op takes you!

## Benefits of Co-operative Education

### Gain relevant professional work

**experience:** Students in our program spend 20 months combined on work terms, of which up to one year may be used towards your Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) designation depending on an Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA, 2020) assessment.

### Diversify skills and knowledge in

**your field:** For most disciplines, you will be sequenced into five 4-month work terms (excluding Biomedical which completes four 4-month work terms) – this means that you potentially have the opportunity to try out five different roles before moving into the workforce.

### Expand your personal and

**professional network:** Gaining valuable workplace experience with professionals allows you to clarify career goals and increases your chance of getting hired post-graduation.

### Use academic knowledge in

**real-world settings:** Alternating between academic and work terms allows you to apply your academic/theoretical knowledge in practical work settings – often leading to greater understanding of future coursework.

**Earn \$\$\$:** Did we mention these are paid work terms? Money you make during your work term helps you offset future tuition costs.

# How do I prepare for Co-op?

## Six Tips for Success

- 1. Think about your career aspirations.** Identify what types of skills and knowledge you are interested in developing during your co-op work terms. Try to answer for yourself: What do I want to do? Why do I want to do it? Why will I be great at it?
- 2. Obtain a driver's licence.** Many co-op positions require students to be able to drive. So having your licence and a clean driver's abstract increases your chance of successfully landing a position.
- 3. Understand what's expected of you.** Co-op is both an investment in and commitment to your future. When you are admitted to the program, you are assigned a set sequence of academic and work terms. This means you will have a four year work and academic plan that you are expected to follow. As such, vacations may be difficult to schedule, so set your expectations accordingly.
- 4. Adventure is encouraged!** Have you always wanted to try living somewhere else? We have co-op opportunities all across Canada. Want to spend time working internationally? There are incredible work-abroad programs. Be ready to take risks and move outside your comfort zone!
- 5. Start early.** Programmatically, students have an open summer before they enter co-op. This is an excellent time to gain valuable technical and transferable skills that can help you stand out. Come chat with co-op staff for advice on the types of experiences that will help set you up for success.
- 6. Prioritize developing your professional network.** Start developing your LinkedIn profile and connect with employers and alumni. Engineering Career Connections has great resources in the Vault to help you get started.

## Resources of Interest

Engineering Co-operative Education

[uab.ca/engcoop](http://uab.ca/engcoop)

Engineering Career Connections

[uab.ca/eec](http://uab.ca/eec)

APEGA

[apega.ca/university-students](http://apega.ca/university-students)

CEWIL Canada > Resources > Students

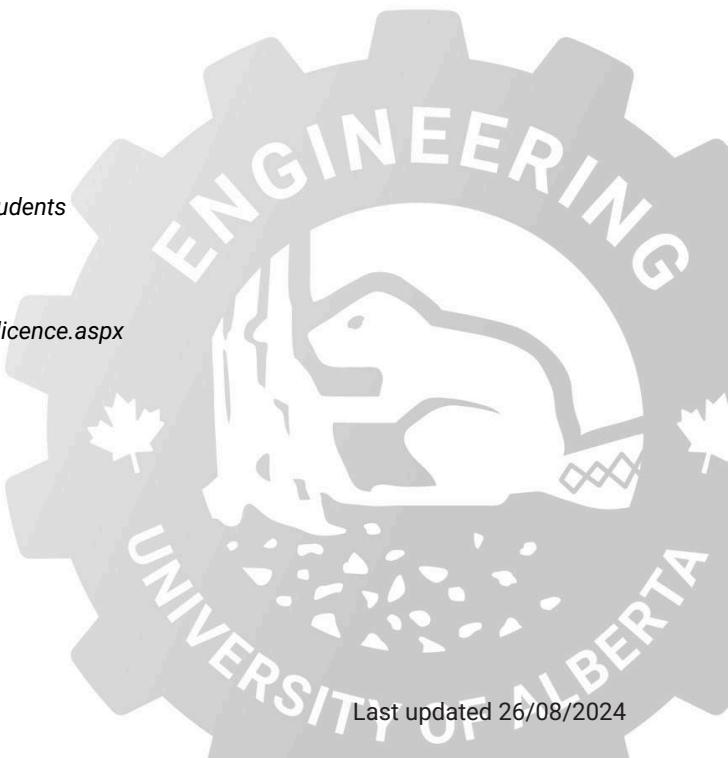
[cewilcanada.ca](http://cewilcanada.ca)

Education Abroad

[uab.ca/goabroad](http://uab.ca/goabroad)

Alberta Registries (Driver's Licence)

[alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence.aspx](http://alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence.aspx)



# Sampling of Co-op Employers

- Acuren
- AECON
- Alberta Computers for Schools
- Alberta Distillers
- Alberta Environment And Parks
- Alberta Health Services
- Alberta Infrastructure
- Alberta Innovates
- Alberta Newsprint Company
- Alberta Transportation
- Almor Testing Services
- AltaSteel
- Al-Terra Engineering
- Amazon
- ARC Resources
- Associated Engineering
- ATB Financial
- ATCO
- Avigilon
- Ballard Power
- Beyond Energy
- Bird
- Bonavista Energy
- Canfor
- Canadian National Railway
- Canadian Natural Resources
- Capital Power
- Cenovus Energy
- C-FER Technologies
- CH2M
- Chandos Construction
- Chevron
- City of Calgary
- City of Camrose
- City of Edmonton
- City of Fort Saskatchewan
- City of Red Deer
- City of St Albert
- Clark Builders
- ConeTec
- Continental Automotive
- Corrosion Service Company
- Cougar Drilling Solutions Inc
- CSA Group
- CT & Associates
- CWP Construction
- D-Wave
- DES Engineering
- Dow Chemical Canada
- Drivewyze
- Edmonton Airports – FLY EIA
- Electronic Arts Inc.
- EllisDon
- Enbridge Pipelines
- EPCOR
- EVRAZ Inc
- Meta (Facebook)
- Fanning
- Flatiron Construction
- Forbes Bros.
- GE Energy Services
- GE Automation & Controls
- General Dynamics Canada
- Golder
- Google
- Graham Group Ltd
- Hinton Pulp
- Huawei Canada
- IBI Group
- Imperial Oil
- Inland Cement / Aggregates / Concrete
- InsideDesk
- Inteliwave Technologies
- Intuit
- International Paper
- Jacobs Canada
- Jobber
- JR Paine & Associates
- KMC Mining
- Kiewit Energy
- Lafarge
- Layfield
- Ledcor Group of Companies
- Magnum Cementing Services
- Mercer-Peace River Pulp
- Michels Canada
- Microchip
- Microsemi
- Microsoft
- Midwest Pipelines
- MPA Engineering
- National Research Council Canada
- Nokia
- North American Construction Group
- NOVA Chemicals Corporation
- NSC Multistage
- Nutrien
- Nvidia
- OEM Remanufacturing
- PCL
- Peace River Hydro Partners
- Pembina Pipelines
- PepsiCo
- Repsol
- Rio Tinto
- SLB (Schlumberger)
- Select Engineering Consultants
- Shaw Communications
- Shelby Engineering
- Shell
- Sherritt International Corporation
- Slave Lake Pulp
- SMA Consulting
- Smith + Andersen
- SMS Equipment
- SNC Lavalin Inc
- Solid Earth Geotechnical
- Stantec Consulting
- Stream-Flo Industries
- Suncor Energy
- Syncrude Canada Ltd
- Synergy Projects
- Teck Resources Ltd
- TELUS
- Tesla
- Tetra Tech
- Thurber Engineering
- TRIUMF
- University of Alberta
- V3 Companies
- Volant Products Inc
- West Fraser Timber
- Westmoreland Mining
- Weyerhaeuser
- Wood PLC
- Worley
- WSP Canada

My co-op experience has really shown me what I am capable of and how many more opportunities are available to me.

'23 BSc in Engineering (Co-op)

My biggest takeaway - no matter how little knowledge you have of what's out there, once you start on a path, keep taking steps and a world of opportunity will open up to you.

'25 BSc in Engineering (Co-op)