

Why should I choose an

Engineering Co-op Education Degree?

Established in 1981, the Engineering at Alberta Co-op program is one of the largest programs of its type in Canada. 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).

The Engineering at Alberta Co-op program exists in all disciplines and comprises approximately 42% of all Engineering students after the common first year.

Over the years, the Engineering at Alberta Co-op program has helped tens of thousands of students gain real-world experiences that enabled them to fast-track their careers. The possibilities are endless with Engineering Co-op. Interested in seeing where our Engineering Co-op students and alumni work? Check out the “Alumni” section of the University of Alberta’s LinkedIn page and use “Engineering”, “Co-op” and the discipline you’re most interested in exploring as your filters. We can’t wait to see where co-op takes you!

Why choose Co-operative Education?

- **Develop relevant professional work experience:** The total time on a co-op work term following the common first year is 20 months – which means that you will be spending just under 50% of your remaining degree in work terms! In addition, up to one year of your work experience may be used towards your Professional Engineering (P.Eng.) designation – the work will be assessed by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA, 2020).
- **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 work in five different roles before moving into the workforce!
- **Expand your personal and professional network:** Gaining valuable experience with professionals in the workplace will allow you to clarify career goals and increase your chance of getting hired post-graduation!
- **Utilize academic knowledge in real-world settings:** Alternating between academic and work terms allows you to utilize your academic/theoretical knowledge in practical work settings – often leading to greater understanding in future coursework.
- **Earn \$\$\$:** Did we mention these are paid work terms? Money you make during your work term should help you offset tuition costs in future academic terms!

The co-op program helped me find a job I genuinely look forward to every day. Without it, I wouldn't be where I am today.

—'20 BSc in Mechanical Engineering (Co-operative Education)

How do I prepare for Co-op? Six Tips for Success

1. Start thinking about the career you aspire to, and identifying what types of skills and knowledge you're interested in developing during Co-op. 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. If you haven't already, take the steps necessary to obtain a driver's license (if you are able). Many co-op positions require students to be able to drive, so having your driver's license and a clean driver's abstract is going to ensure that you have the greatest chance at successfully landing a position.
3. Co-op is both an investment in, and commitment to, your future – when you are admitted to the program you will be assigned to a set “sequence” which means you will know what the next four years of your degree will look like. This also means that things like long vacations are typically not possible during your degree so make sure to set your expectations accordingly. But...

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learn more at uab.ca/engcoop



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ENGINEERING CO-OP
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sampling of Co-op Employers

- Acuren
- Alberta Computers For Schools
- Alberta Environment And Parks
- Alberta Infrastructure
- Alberta Transportation
- Almor Testing Services
- AltaSteel
- AL-Terra Engineering
- ARC Resources
- Associated Engineering
- ATCO
- Avigilon
- Bonavista Energy
- Canfor
- Canadian National Railway
- Canadian Natural Resources Ltd
- Capital Power
- Cenovus Energy
- C-FER Technologies
- CH2M Hill
- Chandos Construction
- Chevron
- City of Camrose
- City of Edmonton
- City of Red Deer
- City of St Albert
- CNOOC International
- Coanda Research and Development
- Conetec
- ConocoPhillips
- Continental Automotive
- Corrosion Service
- Corrpro Canada
- Dow Chemical Canada
- Edmonton Airports – FLY EIA
- Education Abroad – Work Internationally!
- Electronic Arts Inc.
- EllisDon
- Enbridge Pipelines
- EPCOR
- EVRAZ Inc
- Facebook
- Flatiron Construction
- GE Energy Services
- GE Intelligent Platforms
- General Dynamics Canada
- Golder
- Google
- Graham Group Ltd
- Halliburton (Sperry-Sun)
- Hinton Pulp
- Husky Energy
- IBI Group
- Imperial Oil Limited
- Inland Cement / Aggregates/ Concrete
- InnotechAlberta
- International Paper
- Jacobs Canada
- John Deere Reman
- JR Paine & Associates
- Kiewit Energy
- Lafarge
- Ledcor Group of Companies
- Magnum Cementing Services
- Microsemi
- Microsoft
- Midwest Pipelines
- National Research Council
- Nokia
- North American Construction Group
- NOVA Chemicals Corporation
- Nutrien
- OEM Remanufacturing
- PCL
- Peace River Hydro
- Pembina Pipelines
- PepsiCo
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Repsol
- SAP
- Schlumberger Oilfield Services
- Select Engineering Consultants
- Seven Generations Energy
- Shaw Communications
- Shelby Engineering
- Shell
- Sherritt International Corporation
- Slave Lake Pulp
- SMA Consulting
- SMS Equipment
- SNC Lavalin Inc
- Solid Earth Geotechnical
- Stattec Consulting
- Stream-Flo Industries
- Suncor Energy
- SunHills Mining LP
- Syncrude Canada Ltd
- Synergy Projects
- Teck Resources Ltd
- TELUS
- Tesla
- Tetra Tech

- Thurber Engineering
- TRIUMF
- University of Alberta
- V3 Companies
- Volant Oil Tools
- Westmoreland Mining
- Wood.
- Worley
- WSP Canada

The co-op program gave me a great opportunity to refine soft skills, practice professionalism, and gain contacts outside the university for my future career.

— '20 BSc in Materials Engineering
(Co-operative Education)

How do I prepare for Co-op? Six Tips for Success

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4. Adventure is encouraged!!! Although about half of co-op work terms are located in Edmonton and area, some of the most interesting and successful work experiences are located elsewhere. Have you always wanted to try living in Vancouver or up North? We have Co-op opportunities all across Canada! Want to spend time living internationally? There are lots of incredible programs for doing a work term abroad! Be ready to take risks and move outside your comfort zone.
5. Most students have an open summer before they enter co-op – this is an excellent time to gain valuable technical and transferrable skills to help set you apart when you start looking for your first work term! Come chat with a co-op coordinator or the Engineering Employment Centre for hints on the types of experience that really stand out.
6. As previously mentioned, co-op is a great time to continue to develop your professional network. So why not start working on your LinkedIn? The Engineering Employment Centre has a great workshop to get you on your way.

Organizations of Interest

Education Abroad
Engineering Co-operative Education
Engineering Employment Centre
Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA)
Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada (CEWIL Canada)
Obtaining a Driver's License in Alberta

uab.ca/goabroad
uab.ca/engcoop
uab.ca/eec
apega.ca/university-students
cewilcanada.ca/Students.html
alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence.aspx

learn more at uab.ca/engcoop



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