

Cooperative Program

Cooperative Program Aims

Students enrolled in the coop program are required to spend 28 weeks working with companies in their respective fields. The program is intended to provide students with scientific experience and to develop their working skills and enhance their understanding of theoretical concepts taught through linking it with real life experience.

In order to meet the overall aims of the Department, the department needs to ensure that the following aims are achieved:

1. Students work on real projects involving all stages of design, analysis and implementation.
2. Maximize students benefit from the projects performed and ensure that they work on quality projects.
3. Enhancing student's understanding to theoretical concepts learned in their respective fields.
4. Training students to deal with work members and get used to teamwork.
5. Ensure good communication between the student, the coop advisor and the company supervisor.
6. Guarantee a fair evaluation for the coop work done by the students.

Initiatives

In order to achieve the intended aims from the cooperative program, the following initiatives should be considered:

1. In order to ensure a good coop program for the student, it is very important that the student along with his company supervisor and departmental coop advisor prepare a good working plan for the student in the first month of the coop period.
2. There has to be a very close supervision from the department through the coop advisor. The student should contact the advisor at least on a monthly basis to update him on the progress of his work.
3. Companies should be selected for our students that have work related to the computer-engineering field. It has been noticed that many students end up doing database design. This should be minimized.
4. Coop advisors need to be selected to be in the same area of the coop program to maximize benefit for the students.
5. Coop projects should involve design aspects and this will be taken care of in the evaluation process.

6. Coop projects involving teamwork will be encouraged and this will be taken care of in the evaluation process.
7. Enhance companies understanding of what is required from a coop student to help them prepare a good program for them that meets the requirements.
8. In order to enhance communication with coop students, a coop web page has to be developed that contains all necessary information about coop. It will be interesting if the web page is designed such that all progress reports and feedback are submitted automatically through the web.
9. All coop students should be visited by the coop coordinator once in the middle of the coop period to check their status and advise them about the work they are doing.
10. The coop coordinator should arrange regular visits to candidate companies introducing the computer engineering program and what is expected from our students and seeking opportunities for them. This needs to be financially supported by the department.
11. Coop advisors will be selected for students by the industrial committee to better match advisors to the coop area. This should maximize the student's benefit during the coop period. In addition, a balanced distribution of students per coop advisor can help enhance the quality of supervision.
12. Coop advisors are required to evaluate the progress reports for students and provide their feedback as soon as they get them. This will encourage close supervision with the students.
13. In order to have a fair coop evaluation for the student, an examiner will be assigned for each student. The examiner will have a similar weight to the weight given to the coop advisor and his evaluation will be based on the whole coop report. This is in addition to a committee member and the coop coordinator.
14. Develop a database that stores all the companies and their respective departments at which our students have done coop training including the name of the project, the training area and the training department.

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6
I1	*	*	*			
I2	*	*	*			
I3		*	*			
I4		*	*			
I5	*					
I6				*		
I7		*				
I8					*	
I9					*	
I10					*	
I11		*				
I12		*			*	
I13						*
I14	*	*				