

Portland State University  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

## **Cooperative Education Program Information**

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering recognizes the substantial educational value that can be provided by supervised and compensated employment in a student's academic area of interest. Therefore, the Department has established a Cooperative Education Option, as described below:

- ❖ In the Cooperative Education Option, a senior or graduate student in good academic standing receives financial compensation and degree credit for a period of industrial employment.
- ❖ The employment project must be related to the student's field of study and involve significant design component.
- ❖ Undergraduate students have to show that they have been making good progress toward their degree, as evidenced by the number of upper-division courses taken and GPA above 2.75.
- ❖ The financial compensation should be appropriate for the student's ability and experience.
- ❖ Academic credit will typically be awarded at a rate of two quarter credits for one quarter of half-time employment, and four quarter credits for one quarter of full-time employment.
- ❖ A maximum of four credits can be counted toward a B.S. degree (either EE or CMPE). A senior in the program should register for ECE 404, and the credits may be counted toward senior elective requirements. Design content of an undergraduate Cooperative Education course must be at least equivalent to that of the lecture elective course that is being replaced. Student cannot apply for ECE 404 credits retroactively, i.e. after internship is over or almost over.
- ❖ A student in the Master's program should register for ECE 504, and a student in the Ph.D. program should register for ECE 604. Up to eight credits can be counted toward M.S., M.Eng. or Ph.D. degree requirements but this has to be approved by student's faculty advisor before the internship starts.
- ❖ Each Cooperative Education course will be graded on a pass/no pass basis. The grade will be assigned and the design content will be verified by the project's faculty adviser, and will be based on the student's final written report and on discussions with the student's employer. The report must be typed and submitted by the last day of class. The faculty sponsor may also choose to visit the student's work area.

A student interested in the Cooperative Education Program should maintain an up-to-date resume, and should check with the ECE Department and the Career Center for announcements of positions available. A student who has been selected for a Cooperative Education project must identify a faculty member who is willing to monitor the student's progress and assign the final grade. Further information may be obtained from the ECE Office, FAB 160.