Georgia Tech believes that obtaining relevant, academically related experience outside of the classroom is an integral part of the educational process. The Center for Career Discovery and Development ("C2D2") offers opportunities to obtain such experience through cooperative education and internships.

The Undergraduate Cooperative Plan (Co-op) has been offered at Georgia Tech since 1912. It offers students the opportunity to integrate practical experience with theory learned in the classroom. More than 600 students participate each semester, working full time on alternate semesters, for a total of three semesters, for employers throughout the United States and the world. Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education, it is the largest optional co-op program in the country and one of the highest ranked programs among public universities.

The Undergraduate Co-op Plan is available for students in all majors with the exception of architecture and building construction. Co-op students remain on the school rolls while on work periods by registering for the appropriate co-op courses. The Graduate Co-op Program is described in greater detail in another section in this catalog.

The work experience received is a valuable asset to graduates starting out in their chosen professions. Neither college laboratory experience nor employment during vacations can take the place of organized co-op training. The plan provides, to a substantial degree, the experience most companies require of their employees before promoting them to positions of higher responsibility. Work experience may also assist students who are undecided about their future plans in determining early in their college careers whether they wish to continue in a particular field.

Moreover, daily contact with diverse groups among their fellow employees offers students practical insight into sociology, psychology, economics, and ethics that no textbook can supply. Finally, students receive compensation for their services from the employer. Typically, co-op students can save enough from their earnings to pay for a substantial part of their school expenses.

Internships provide practical experience for students who choose not to follow the Undergraduate Co-op Plan. Internships, the majority of which are paid positions, are an extremely viable way to obtain out-of-classroom experience. Similar to cooperative education, the jobs and the students’ performance are monitored by the Center for Career Discovery and Development to ensure maximum benefit by all parties.

Students in all majors may participate in the internship program and may work any term during the academic year. There are also part-time internships available for those who wish to work while attending classes.

The Center for Career Discovery and Development also works with students to customize their experiential education path, with the option to combine co-op and internship experiences.

For more information on any programs offered through the Center for Career Discovery and Development, visit our website at careerdiscovery.gatech.edu or call C2D2 at 404-894-3320.