

Engineering+ Practicum FAQ

What is the practicum? How is it different from an internship?

An internship is generally a summer experience, while the practicum spans over 6 months. The extended time of the practicum provides students with immersive opportunities to apply the knowledge they've acquired in university to real-world scenarios. The longer duration gives students a chance to participate in in-depth projects, take on a variety of responsibilities, cultivate stronger professional relationships, and embark on a path of self-discovery.

Additionally, the practicum provides an academic component, allowing students to stay connected with the university while pursuing their employment goals. Students may receive academic units when enrolled. Cohorts will have meetings where students can share their work experiences and support each other on their journeys. Students will also have the Experiential Learning Coordinator to help them if they run into difficulty, have questions, or need assistance as they juggle being a student and employee.

What is the process of joining?

Please find the How To Join infographic on the Engineering+ Practicum webpage.

Here are steps you should take if interested in joining:

- Fill Out Intake Form (found on the webpage)
- Meet with the Experiential Learning Coordinator
- Meet with your Academic Counselor
- Meet with Financial Aid & Housing if needed

What are the requirements?

- Students must work for at least six months/two quarters
- Students must work for 30-40 hours a week
- While each company determines their own requirements for their positions, we recommend you be in good academic standing to join the practicum.
- We recommend that a student is in their third or fourth year to apply but it is not a requirement.

What are the academic options?

The practicum course can be taken for 2-12 units. The practicum units are not intended for use as a Technical Elective. There is a three quarter limit for enrollment. However, you may still be part of the practicum without enrolling in the course

The course numbers for the practicum include:
BME 198, CBE 197, CEE 197, EECS 197, MAE 197

Please see the Enrollment Options infographic on the Engineering+ Practicum webpage.

Other FAQs

Are we restricted to the companies you have or can I find my own position?

If you find a position that will allow you to work at least 30 hr/week over the required timeframe, you will be allowed to enroll in the practicum course.

If I already have an internship, can it be part of the practicum?

If your internship matches the requirements above, you may join the practicum. Please reach out to the Experiential Learning Coordinator about your eligibility.

Will you help me find a position?

You will be finding and applying to positions yourself through Handshake. If you need assistance with your application or understanding if the practicum is for you, please reach out to the Experiential Learning Coordinator.

Am I guaranteed a position through this practicum?

No. Of the positions you apply to, you will likely be one of many candidates, We will provide you with the resources so that you can be a competitive candidate, but ultimately the company will decide.

Will this add time to my degree? How much more time?

You are encouraged to reach out to the Experiential Learning Coordinator and your Academic Advisor as soon as you decide to join the practicum. While there might be some time added, early preparation with your Academic Advisor can ensure that the added time is minimal.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Please email the Experiential Learning Coordinator if you have any questions or are in need of assistance with the program. You can find their contact information on the Engineering+ Practicum webpage.