

# Software Engineering Co-op Program

## Mission & Vision

### Vision Statement

The Faculty of Engineering's vision is to prepare globally-minded leaders who are equipped to solve the problems that matter.

### Mission Statement

The Software Co-op program supports the Faculty vision in that it offers an experiential learning opportunity that aims to enhance the student's academic program by evaluating and exploring career options through alternating co-op work-term placements.

Throughout the course of the program, the students will:

- **integrate educational and extra-curricular interests** in real world settings.
- **reinforce professional skillsets** by practicing current software engineering theories, concepts and approaches on the job while being mentored and evaluated by an industry professional.
- **develop their professional identity** and learn to manage projects and workloads, and communicate effectively to people in diverse roles.
- **develop self-awareness, leadership skills and emotional intelligence** that will allow students to be future ready and to work in diverse environments upon graduation.

### How do we implement our vision and mission?

We aim to **support, inspire and challenge** our students with exceptional co-op opportunities, to offer personalized service to our industry partners, and to ensure all parties benefit from the McGill Software Engineering Co-op experience.

In order for students to enhance their classroom learning on the job and to become the problem-solving leader of tomorrow, the Software Co-op team will:

- Offer guidance through the job search process and the co-op work-term placement as well as career guidance throughout their degree.
- Inspire and challenge students with complimentary services related to career planning (industry tours, tech talks, and more).
- Work with industry partners, alumni and the Faculty of Engineering to create meaningful connections that translate into high-quality co-op opportunities.
- Adapt and respond to the changing needs of both students and industry partners.

# About the Software Co-op Program

Starting in 2021-2022, Software Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering at McGill will become a co-op program. In a co-op program you get to apply concepts learned in class during paid work terms. After about four or five years of study, you will have not only a diploma that indicates you participated in the program but also **16 months of paid experience** in your field of study and a network of valuable contacts. All of these factors will contribute to helping you find a job more easily after graduation.

## Why choose McGill's Software Engineering Co-op Program?

McGill Engineering is known for the expertise of its professors, the talent of its students, the exceptional quality of its teaching and research, and the contributions of its alumni.

In terms of research, Faculty members of the [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering](#) have a strong research profile in various areas of software engineering including model-driven systems engineering, requirements engineering, cyber-physical systems, Internet-of-Things, cloud computing, advanced graphics, and many more. Cutting edge software engineering research also actively exploits recent advances of machine learning.

Engineers graduating from the Software Co-op program will be equipped to work in a wide variety of high-tech industries including: artificial intelligence, video games, Web applications and interfaces, information technologies, telecommunications, robotics, medical technologies, biomedicine, automotive industry, aerospace industry and more.

Students in the Software Engineering Co-op program will complete four, 4-month-long, paid work-terms in research and industrial settings locally, nationally or internationally. During these work-terms, students perform technical engineering tasks and submit required assignments, for which they receive two university credits, a grade and a formal evaluation by the employer.

The program emphasizes a spectrum of work experiences and students will benefit by:

- Improving their teamwork and leadership skills
- Receiving individualized career counselling
- Gaining valuable paid work experience in software engineering
- Developing professional skills and gaining a better understanding of the workplace
- Discovering what career fits best through different job opportunities
- Meeting key people in the job market who can help facilitate placement after graduation

Students enrolled in the Software Engineering Co-op Program will have a dedicated [Software Co-op Officer](#) and an Academic Director to assist students throughout the co-op process. The students will also have access to all the career services at the [Engineering Career Centre](#) which includes skill building workshops, individual appointments, career fairs, and networking activities and events. The Software Co-op Officer will offer tailored skill-building workshops to assist Software Engineering students with securing work such as how to prepare for a technical/coding interview and how to optimize LinkedIn & how to prepare for career fairs.

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