ProTrack

ENGINEERING CO-OP

Florida Tech’s ProTrack Engineering Co-op program allows engineering students to complete up to three semester-long paid work experiences related to their major and career interests while still earning a bachelor’s degree in four years. With ProTrack, students graduate on time and ahead of the curve.

How ProTrack Works

Prospective students applying for admission to Florida Tech’s College of Engineering and wishing to enroll in ProTrack should indicate so by checking the appropriate box on their admission application, which may be completed online at www.fit.edu/ugrad/apply.

The entire first year is spent in classes at Florida Tech, where students build a strong foundation in the knowledge and skills needed for their first co-op job. Students must earn an average GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in their academic studies their first year to begin ProTrack.

During the first year of study, ProTrack students take ProTrack Cooperative Education Preparation, a comprehensive preparatory course focused on critical skills and strategies for success in choosing the right co-op and excelling in it. Topics include career exploration, résumé development, the job search, interview skills and workplace issues.

In their second year, ProTrack students are assigned one of two co-op cycles and begin their first work experience. Here’s a sample of how it might break down for the typical student:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ProTrack</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer A</th>
<th>Summer B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Co-op Experience 1 (6 credits online)</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Co-op Experience 2 (3 credits online)</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Co-op Experience 3 (3 credits online)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Senior Design</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some students may require a modified schedule depending on their degree program and academic standing.

PROTRACK MAJORS

The ProTrack Engineering Co-op is open to students admitted to a College of Engineering degree program, including:

- Aerospace engineering
- Biomedical engineering
- Chemical engineering
- Civil engineering
- Computer engineering
- Computer science
- Construction management
- Electrical engineering
- Environmental science
- Mechanical engineering
- Meteorology
- Oceanography
- Ocean engineering
- Software engineering
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PROTRACK ENGINEERING CO-OP?

The program is open to all incoming freshmen admitted into any of the outstanding degree programs offered by the College of Engineering. Students must earn a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) their first year in order to begin their co-op cycles during their second year.

ProTrack students interested in one of our FastTrack Master’s Degree programs are able and encouraged to participate. There’s only one thing better than gaining a year of work experience while earning your bachelor’s degree in four years, and that’s earning both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five.

International students are able to enroll in ProTrack. Those choosing this program should, however, carefully manage their co-op experiences to keep their total time of employment under 52 weeks so they do not risk losing the ability to pursue post degree practical training.

HOW MUCH CAN A PROTRACK STUDENT EARN THROUGH THE CO-OP EXPERIENCES?

On average, students have earned $7,680 in Co-op Experience 1, $10,240 in Co-op Experience 2 and $12,800 in Co-op Experience 3. That’s over $30,000 over the course of the program.

WHAT IF I’M NOT AN ENGINEERING MAJOR?

While the ProTrack Engineering Co-op program is specifically designed to combine co-op with engineering curricula, students in science, business, aeronautics, psychology, communication and the humanities can work with Career Management Services to find co-ops related to their major interests and career goals. Non-engineering students have completed co-ops, internships and temporary employment positions with many of our ProTrack Partners, as well as other educational and nonprofit organizations, media outlets, scientific and government agencies, and high-tech businesses. Whatever your major, you can get real-world experience related to your career goals at Florida Tech.

WHERE DO PARTICIPANTS WORK AND ARE THEY GUARANTEED CO-OP EMPLOYMENT?

Students work at a variety of exciting scientific and technical organizations including Harris Corporation, Microsoft, Google, NASA, SpaceX and more. Students may also work with Career Management Services to write up a co-op proposal to the company of their choice.

Florida Tech will make every effort to find sufficient co-op employment positions for ProTrack students, but the university cannot guarantee employment. This applies especially to international students, since the U.S. government security regulations often make the employment of non-citizens difficult. The employment process is competitive. Academic performance, skills, motivation, maturity, attitude and potential will determine whether or not a student is offered a job. If a student is not employed through the interviewing process, Career Management Services will advise students on alternatives to gaining work experience through the ProTrack Co-op program. Failure to obtain work authorization status or ProTrack employment does not entitle any student to a change of academic status, refund or adjustment of tuition and fees charges.

WHO MANAGES THE PROTRACK ENGINEERING CO-OP PROGRAM?

Career Management Services manages all internship and cooperative education programs, including ProTrack Co-op, working closely with students and their respective academic departments to provide top quality learning experiences. In addition, Career Management Services provides advisement and training services designed to optimize the co-op experience and maximize the value of the relationship among students, employers and the university. Career Management Services is responsible for:

- Advising employers on how to optimize their participation in Florida Tech Co-op
- Arranging for co-op on-campus recruiting interviews
- Giving co-op orientation training and professional career guidance to students
- Providing feedback on employment trends to students and faculty

“I love that my work directly affected the space program. I love that I wasn’t shoved in a corner and told to make copies, but instead I got to be a real member of a team of NASA engineers.”

Chris Nagel ’13
Mechanical Engineering
Worked at NASA–Johnson Space Center

Location Advantage

Florida Tech’s ProTrack Engineering Co-op benefits from the university’s prime location in the heart of the “Space Coast.” Brevard County is home to the fourth-largest high-tech workforce in the nation and thousands of scientific and technological companies, organizations and agencies, many of which are in close proximity to our Melbourne, Fla. campus—making Florida Tech the perfect place to learn, work and play.

Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

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