“An internship/coop shows you’ll need less time to train which saves a company tons of money. It doesn’t always put you at the head of the queue to get the job, but it definitely puts you ahead of everyone who doesn’t have real world experience!”

Hayden Waisanen
IMVU, Silicon Valley
BS, Computer Science May 2013

**OTHER FACTS**

- Starting salaries are usually higher for graduates with co-op or internship experience.
- Employers often first consider their co-op/intern students when hiring for full-time positions.
- Many co-op/intern students receive job offers from their employers several months before graduation.
- Mines students interned with more than 165 employers in 34 states, Canada and Germany in 2013.

**EFFECT OF CO-OP/INTERN EXPERIENCE ON AVERAGE SALARY OFFERS**

2011-12 Graduates (BS degrees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Offer</th>
<th>No Experience</th>
<th>Co-op/Intern Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>$59,759</td>
<td>$63,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$63,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$61,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$59,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$57,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$51,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MORE INFORMATION**

Darrell Sawyer, EdD, Director
Julie Ohlsen, MEd, Assistant Director
Cindy Christensen, Program Assistant

501 E. St. Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
605.394.2667
careercenter@sdsmt.edu
careers.sdsmt.edu

CO-OPS & INTERNSHIPS

Career & Professional Development Center
at SDSM&T

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, military status, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, political preference, or disability in employment or the provision of service. The Mines Career and Professional Development Center adheres to NACE’s Principles of Professional Conduct for Career Services and Employment Professionals.
**WHAT ARE CO-OPS & INTERNSHIPS?**

Internships and co-ops provide great opportunities for students to apply classroom learning to “real world” work experiences. Students are hired by employers to work on projects related to their fields of study. With approval from their academic department, students may earn academic credit for their work experience. All School of Mines students are encouraged to obtain relevant experience before graduating.

Internships are usually for the summer or part-time during the school year. Co-ops are often 6-8 months in length (semester + summer) but vary with employers.

**BENEFITS**

- Gain valuable work experience.
- Increase chances for job offers and higher salary offers.
- Earn money to help pay for college.
- Confirm or redefine your career focus.
- Strengthen communication and teamwork skills.
- Obtain academic credit.

“The experience and knowledge gained during an internship surpasses what can be taught in a textbook. The real world projects prepare you for any caliber job and allow you to showcase your abilities as a world class engineer.”

Ariel Granillo
John Deere
BS, Industrial Engineering & Engineering Management, May 2013

**CO-OP/INTERN SALARY AVERAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Salary</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$17.01

*Some employers also provide free housing or housing allowances, bonuses, and relocation expenses that are not reflected in the salary averages.*

**OBTAINING A CO-OP OR INTERNSHIP**

1. Develop a good résumé and cover letter.
2. Apply to employers at career fairs or through SDSM&T’s “Gold Mine” system.
3. After accepting a position, notify the Career & Professional Development Center of your job offer.
4. To obtain academic credit, contact your department co-op coordinator and register for the correct co-op course (CP 297/397/497).*

*Students registered for CP credit maintain full-time student status while working on co-op.*

**A SAMPLE OF EMPLOYERS OF 2012-13 MINES CO-OP/INTERNS**

- American Technical Services*
- Apache Corporation
- Arch Coal
- Archer Daniels Midland
- Baker Hughes
- Baldwin Filters
- Barrick Gold
- Basin Electric Power
- Battelle Energy Alliance
- Beconton Dickinson
- BHP Billiton
- Bobcat
- Boeing
- Braun Intertec
- Bros Engineering*
- Burns and McDonnell
- Cargill
- Caterpillar*
- Cetec Engineering Services*
- Charter Steel
- CHI Solutions*
- Cliffs Natural Resources
- C-Lock*
- Cloud Peak Energy
- Continental Resources
- CreteX Concrete*
- Cummins
- Dakota Gasification Company
- Dakota Power*
- Daktronics*
- Digi-Key
- Dow Chemical
- EchoStar
- Emerson Process Management
- Ferber Engineering*
- Flint Hills Resources
- Four Front Design*
- Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold
- Garmin
- GCC Dakotah*
- Gerdau
- Goldcorp - Wharf*
- Goldsmith & Heck Engineering*
- Graco*
- GSI Engineering
- HF Webster*
- Hills Materials*
- Hormel
- Houston Engineering
- Innovative Systems*
- J. R. Simplot
- John Deere
- Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab
- Kadrmas, Lee, & Jackson*
- Kiewit
- Kolberg-Pioneer*
- L-3 Communications
- Laforge
- Los Alamos National Lab
- Logan Aluminum
- LyondellBasell
- Martin Marietta
- Masaba Mining Equipment*
- Medtronic
- Mesabi Nugget
- Microsoft
- MidAmerican Energy
- Molded FiberGlass SD*
- Mosaic
- NASA
- National Park Service*
- National Security Technologies
- Newmont Mining
- Nucor
- Nutra-Flo*
- OCI Chemical
- Oftedal Construction
- P&H Mining Equipment
- Parker Hannifin
- Peabody Energy
- Pennington Co. Hwy*
- Pete Lien*
- POET*
- Prairie Berry*
- QEP Resources
- Rapid City Public Works*
- Raven Industries*
- RCS Construction*
- Ring Container Technologies*
- Rockwell Collins
- RPM & Associates*
- Sanford Underground Lab*
- Schwan Foods
- SCI Automation
- Scotchman Industries*
- SDSM&T Museum of Geology*
- Sencore*
- Siemens Medical Solutions
- Sioux Steel*
- Skyline Engineering*
- Solvay Chemicals
- South Dakota DOT*
- St. Jude Medical
- Stillwater Mining
- SymCom*
- Trail King*
- TruXedo*
- Unimin
- US Army Corps of Engineers*
- US Forest Service*
- US Geological Survey*
- UTC Aerospace
- Vermeer
- Vishay Dale Electronics*
- *South Dakota employers*