

West Texas A&M University Experiential Education Program Fall 2006 Executive Summary

The Experiential Education program (formerly Cooperative Education) began in the spring of 1994. A Title VIII Department of Education grant started the program, and we placed the first students in the spring of 1994. Our vital statistics to date include:

- Monitored 1,364 individual placements to date (51 in Fall 2006)
- Placed 641 students in paid internships (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Fall 2006 class – 3.25
- Average wage for the Fall 2006 class - \$10.72 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Fall 2006 class - \$167,017
- Total dollars earned by all internship students to date - \$4,588,746

To date in the 2006-07 academic year, the Experiential Education & Career Services program helped 486 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 74 students so far in this academic year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

Intern to Full-Time for Fall 2006

This semester 11 of our 51 interns placed graduated. Six found full-time positions, 3 are seeking additional education, and 2 are still seeking employment.

Graduate	Major	Intern Employer	Current Status
Anstey, Travis	Math/CS	McCoy Myers	FT with McCoy Myers
Christina Castellon	Accounting	AQHA	FT with AQHA
Crow, Brandon	CIS	Pantex	Still seeking
Gee, Stacey	CIS	WTAMU Career Services	Pursuing second bachelor's degree
Ross, Ryan	CIS	Herring National Bank/ McCoy Myers	FT with McCoy Myers
Settle, Jolene	Graphic Design	Amarillo Design Bureau	Graduate school
Seufer, Chelsey.	Finance	Skelton & Swicegood, LLC	Still seeking
Sides, Roxanne	Accounting	Jack B. Kelley	Graduate school
Silva, Carlos	Engineering Technology	Gas Transport Module	FT with Gas Transport Module
Torres, Juan	Engineering Technology	Curtis Construction	FT with Curtis Construction
Wilson, Jonathan	Finance	VA Hospital	FT with Merrill Lynch

As you can see, internships are an effective way for our students to find full-time employment in their field.

Participating Employers

For a current list of employers who have participated in our program, please see <http://wtcareer.wtamu.edu/coop/coopemp.htm>.

Selected Student Comments

“Prior to entering this internship, I really didn’t have a direction. In only a short time, I’ve realized that I could have a career doing research, advising, or educating clients about safeguarding their assets.”

“I recommend that any student interested in an internship do everything possible to get involved. Other than actually pursuing a finance degree, this internship has been one of the best things that has happened to me in college.”

*Chelsey Seufer, Finance Major
Intern with Skelton & Swicegood, LLC*

“I feel have benefited more from this internship experience than from taking a three hour accounting elective. By experiencing the information, I’m more likely to retain it.”

“I would definitely recommend this accounting internship.”

*Christina Castellon, Accounting Major
Intern with the American Quarter Horse Association.*

“The experience one gains from working in such a small company and being allowed to have so many responsibilities is priceless. I have learned so much and this job has reinforced so much that I have learned in school.”

“This has been a great experience and one that has impacted my views on how to do business and what I want to do with my career.”

*Vanessa Clark, Marketing Major
Intern with Amarillo Design Bureau*