

West Texas A&M University Cooperative Education / Internship Program Summer 2005 Executive Summary

The co-op / internship program at WTAMU began in the spring of 1994. A Title VIII Department of Education grant started the program and placed the first students in the spring of 1994. Our vital statistics to date include:

- Monitored 1220 individual placements to date (33 in Summer 2005)
- Placed 566 students in paid internships / co-op jobs (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Summer 2005 class – 3.21
- Average wage for the Summer 2005 class - \$9.90 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Summer 2005 class - \$108,012
- Total dollars earned by all co-op / internship students to date - \$4,002,578

In the academic year to date, the co-op / internship program has also helped more than 1,920 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 274 students to date during the 2004-05 school year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

Intern to Full-Time for Summer 2005

None of our placed interns graduated this summer. Many will graduate in December and we are actively working with them to secure full-time employment upon graduation.

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

“Be prepared to learn. One of the first things I learned was that nothing is as simple in real life as it is in the textbook; however, doing actual tax work helps things sink in more in the classroom”

*John Peil, Accounting Major
Intern with Brown, Graham & Co.*

“...The experience I’ve gained is the most important aspect attained. Being able to work with other professionals is something you can’t gain working in other part-time jobs. The second most important thing I’ve gained from this internship is college credit. I think it is a valuable senior level course because it forces me to use many of the things I’ve been learning throughout my college career. I think the third thing I’ve gained from the internship is connections. Many entry-level jobs today are attained through knowing someone in the industry. I have made connections with some of the best in the trucking industry. I hope I can use this to my advantage in seeking a career.”

*Kyle Pierce, General Business Major
Intern with Bruckner Truck Sales, Inc.*

