New internship options for OSU Surveying Students

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Oregon State University’s School of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE) provides a comprehensive, state-of-the-art education to prepare students for professional and responsible engineering and constructor positions with business, industry, consulting firms or government (OSU CCE Mission Statement). At the bachelor degree level, students may choose to major in either Civil Engineering (CE) or Construction Engineering Management (CEM). Students wishing to pursue a career in land surveying may take additional coursework to meet the requirements of the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) to take the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination for enrollment as a Land Surveying Intern (LSI). The requirement for both programs is graduation and 16 quarter-hours of surveying instruction, including a course in surveying law (OAR 820-010-0226). Thus, upon graduation OSU CCE students are eligible to pursue a path leading towards professional registration in both civil engineering and land surveying.

The Civil Engineering Co-op Program (CECOP) is a business/education partnership working with Oregon universities to provide student internships in engineering and business. Through the CECOP program, a student completes two, six-month internships (one with a public agency, the other with a private firm) while completing his or her BS degree. Placement into CECOP is a highly competitive process. This year, approximately 50% of qualified applicants will gain admission to the program (students are competitively screened through a written application and personal interview). Due to the extended duration of the two internships, the student’s time to graduation is extended by two terms. The internships have stringent regulations to ensure that the students are gaining practical experience rather than given simple office tasks. Due to this assurance, CECOP internships are the only internship program allowed by OSBEELS to qualify as part of the four years of required work experience toward professional registration in civil engineering or land surveying. The time spent out of the classroom is time actively spent working toward the student’s professional goals.

Through CECOP, CCE students may complete either two surveying internships, or one surveying and one civil engineering internship (only CE students are eligible for the CE internship). When the internships are combined with completion of a CE or CEM BS degree and the required geomatics and surveying coursework, students are qualified to sit for the FS and FE exams. The six or twelve months of time spent in surveying internship may be applied toward the application to sit for either the PLS or PE (civil engineering) exam.

OSU CCE and the CECOP program provide excellent opportunities for Oregon students to gain valuable education and professional experience in geomatics and land surveying, exposing a whole new generation to the career possibilities in this important and dynamic field.

For more information:
- The CECOP program, or if your company is interested in joining: www.mecop.osu.edu
- OSU’s geomatics program: cce.oregonstate.edu