

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation   
Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

**DATE: 23 November 2021**

**FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee**

**SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Engineering (FEAS)**

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### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Engineering programs.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing the addition of a co-op degree designation option.

- Addition of the co-op option
  - Students who successfully complete three or more co-op work terms will have the co-op designation appear on their degree parchment
  - Students will be required to complete a Professional Competencies course prior to participating in their first co-op placement

These are suggested changes to the structure and delivery of the program to improve student experience and satisfaction, as well as address Government of Canada requirement for our students to participate in co-op/internship opportunities at government agencies. The proposed changes have been developed in such a way to wholly enrich the program.

The proposed modifications will address current challenges of the existing non-degree co-op and internship program, such as students not attaching the co-op to their program requirements to avoid paying the work term fee, the Government of Canada has removed the engineering programs from the list of those eligible for co-op/internship opportunities because it is not currently a degree requirement, issues with employer follow-up and communication, students not

following the requirements to complete the work report and register in many courses while they are also on a placement, international students are not eligible to participate in co-op and internship because it is not a degree requirement. The new option will address these challenges and allow students to retain student status for purposes such as OSAP repayment. It will also have a clearer structure and the necessary resources to support students. A new online course will prepare students for the realities and expectations of the professional world.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

No new faculty members are needed as a result of this addition. Once the modifications have been made to the program and students start to enrol into the program it is expected that there will be a need for more employees to support students. It is also expected that the revenue from course registration will enable the availability of funds to hire more staff. Currently, the Engineering Co-op and Internship is comprised of one full-time staff person, a part-time contract staff person and a University Works student. A team of minimum 3 people will be required to run this office. In addition to this, when travel restrictions are no longer limited, a budget for employer and student site visits will be required. Options such as grants, and external funding will be examined when possible. An increase in international tuition revenue can be anticipated as this option will be attractive to international students.

Please refer to attached memo from the Academic Resource Committee (ARC).

**TRANSITION PLAN:**

The program is expected to be operational starting Fall 2022. All current students can apply to the program, including students who have successfully completed 3 co-op work terms so long as they have attached to the Co-op program for all work terms and completed all the required work term reports and other required documentation.

**CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

Undergraduate Studies Committee: October 2021  
Engineering Faculty Council: May, 2021; October 2021  
Engineering Curriculum Committee: April, 2021  
ARC: June 2021, September 2021

The Dean consulted with FESNS and they are in agreement with the proposed change. In addition, the Faculty has been working closely with CIQE and the Registrar's Office discussing implementation options.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar and will be reported as required to the Quality Council

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- Major Program Modification Proposal – [Bachelor of Engineering \(FEAS\) Co-op](#)
- Memo from the Academic Resource Committee (attached)
- New Courses
  - [ENGR 1000W](#), [ENGR 2000W](#), [ENGR 3000W](#), [ENGR 4000W](#), [ENGR 4001W](#), [ENGR 4002W](#)



## ACADEMIC RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Re: Resources for New Co-op Program

Date: October 2021

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The proposed Engineering Co-op “Resource requirements” text notes the need for additional support:

“Once the modifications have been made to the program and students start to enrol into the program it is expected that there will be a need for more employees to support students. It is also expected that the revenue from course registration will enable the availability of funds to hire more staff. Currently, the Engineering Co-op and Internship is comprised of one full-time staff person, a part-time contract staff person and a University Works student. A team of minimum 3 people will be required to run this office. This includes a Co-op Officer, a Program Coordinator, and a Job Developer.” “In addition to this, when travel restrictions are no longer limited, a budget for employer and student site visits will be required.”

Ontario Tech is committed to providing the dedicated support needed for students in this program. The University will be exploring an institutional approach to more effectively support experiential, co-op, and work integrated learning program innovations and expansions towards achievement of our Learning Re-imagined goals. Staff resources dedicated to these programs will be examined as part of this process to ensure the required supports across campus are coordinated, scalable, of high quality, and financially sustainable.

Job titles are determined through the Job Evaluation process and are subject to change. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that additional staff will be required to provide experiential learning management, co-op program coordination, and industry opportunity development.

The Academic Resource Committee recommends approval of the proposal, with the understanding that University resources will be reviewed and allocated as necessary to successfully support all experiential, co-op, and work integrated learning program innovations, and job titles will be confirmed through established University procedures.