

Computer Science 7700/7800/7900 Co-Op Work Term

Calendar Description: Work assignment in business, industry, or government for students registered in the Computer Science Graduate Cooperative Option. Requires submission of a written report covering the work completed during the four-month professional assignment. Graded Pass/Fail.

Prerequisites: COMP 7700 has no prerequisites; COMP 7700 is a prerequisite for COMP 7800, and COMP 7800 is a prerequisite for COMP 7900.

Overview: The intent of this course is to detail the student's professional work during his or her four-month professional assignment. Passing any of COMP 7700/7800/7900 should indicate that the professional assignment was successful, both professionally and in terms of the opportunity to demonstrate some mastery of the field of computer science. Success in a professional placement will include a statement of expectations on the part of the student within the first two weeks of the beginning of the placement, and the completion of exercises provided by the Co-Op office during the work term, as well as through a detailed work term report. This report describes the work done by the student during the work period, and the associated experience in the field of computer science gained from this work. The student is encouraged to work on this report during the term itself. Keeping a journal as the work term progresses is a good way for the student to be able to document progress and keep track of details that will ultimately go into the work term report.

Any single work term report can be used for only one of COMP 7700/7800/7900 – that is, if an eight month work term is being reported, it must be the subject of two different reports for two of these courses.

Classes: There are no formal classes. Students will be required to attend preparation workshops and meetings facilitated by the Co-op Office. During the work term, meetings will be arranged between the student, employer and the Co-op Office.

Grading: The course is graded pass/fail based on the success of the work term as reported by the student and employer to the Co-Op office, through exercises provided by the Co-Op office during the term, and as embodied in the work term report. The work term report should include (but is not limited to) the following:

- ❑ An overview of the employer and, if required, the group in which the work was performed.
- ❑ A description of the project(s) involved, and the scope and nature of the student's portion of this work. What areas of computer science are most closely associated with this the work these project(s) involved?
- ❑ What methodologies were employed to tackle these project(s)?

- What were the more and less challenging elements of the work involved?
- What future work remains? Did the work involved uncover new problems or ideas that were not obvious at the outset? In hindsight, what might have been done differently given the experience gained through this work term?
- Provide an overview of skills that were learned as a result of this work (e.g. software engineering techniques, skills in problem-solving, soft skills, or particular tools). How has this position helped move the student forward in his or her career?
- Can the work performed be related to courses taken in the graduate program? Has the student's viewpoint on things learned from courses in the past changed as a result of this position?
- What feedback can be offered to the student's management and colleagues?