A high priority for the professional practice program is continuing to create opportunities for students by adding more employers and encouraging more students to pursue cooperative education and internship education assignments. "I believe it is the best way for students to get involved and to encourage already participating employers to consider expanding their programs. The fall and spring Engineering Expo are the premier events for recruiting engineering students. Representatives from companies such as TVA, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Eastman, Altice, Nissan and others visit campus, allowing students to discuss opportunities face to face."

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"My co-op rotations were in the field of reliability," said "I obtained a minor in reliability, and I have a full-time job as a reliability engineer with ExxonMobil. Participating companies view the co-op and internship program as a way to develop a quality, skilled workforce. The relationships forged also fold back to increase possibilities in the College of Engineering. The establishment of the Eastman Unit Operations Laboratory is a good example. The professional practice office has a long-standing collaboration with Eastman through student co-op and internship programs."

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Other prominent other alumni also contribute elements of their success to the co-op program. Dwight Hutchins (BS/ChE ‘66) is the Pacific managing director of Accenture’s strategy consulting practice for consumer products. He did co-op assignments with Georgia Kraft, a paper mill, and with DuPont in Nashville. "I gained perspective on all of my college experiences. The experience gave me a big head start when I began my career with Allied Chemical. As a result, in less than a year, I was promoted to a supervisor position in manufacturing."