

## Cooperative Education Reinforces Career-Readiness

### Students gain edge via experiential learning outside the classroom

Fourth-year Management Information Systems and New Media Marketing student, Zachary White recognized that his first year, hands-on business courses were enough experience to take on full-time employment the following summer. Thanks to The Freshman Experience: Biz 1+2 program, Zachary found the confidence to apply and receive a competitive internship at Intuit, after completing his freshman year of college. "I was able to work on co-op at a real company while students at other universities were just starting their business education," said White.

### Meaningful work experience before leaving campus

Operated through the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education, co-op at RIT is unique, differing from summer employment and internships, in that it is integrated into the curriculum. In a Business and Careers course, students learn how to build a resume

"Employers repeatedly return to the RIT Career Fair to seek the high-quality interpersonal and technical skills our students possess. Our cooperative education gives students the opportunity to test out a position that may lead to a job offers based on their performance."



Manny Contomanolis, Ph.D.  
Senior Associate Vice President and Director  
Career Services and Cooperative Education

and best practices for engaging in the job search process. Students may co-op anytime throughout the year. Throughout the co-op process, students get coaching from dedicated academic advisors and career services counselors while accessing resources from one of the oldest and largest, cooperative education programs in the country.

Throughout the curriculum, Saunders courses have an applied focus that prepares students to be career-ready upon graduation. Beginning with the foundational business courses taken

in the first-year, students take a hands-on approach to learning and becoming a T-shaped professional. While on co-op, students come to fully realize the value of what is learned in the classroom. The opportunity allows students to continuously develop professional business skills and technical acumen in a real-world setting while enhancing vital personal skills, such as judgment, written and oral communications, and teamwork, necessary competences students need as they embark upon their first entry-level job. White, who completed several co-ops during his time at Saunders, recalls learning from his CEO and working directly

*See reverse...*

## 250+ COMPANIES recruiting on campus

Rochester Institute of Technology hosts two major university-wide career fairs annually, in the fall and spring that draw more than 250 companies from around the country to meet with and interview prospective student employees. Participating companies range from small tech firms to Fortune 500 companies, from across the country.



More than 3,200 job-seeking RIT students and alumni attend the Spring Career Fair to learn about companies and meet potential employers.

The night before each Spring Career Fair Saunders students attend an exclusive Business Networking Event. At the mixer-style event, students forge personal connections with employers seeking business positions. They learn more about companies that have open positions and discover what those jobs entail. It is also a great opportunity for students to practice their elevator pitches in advance of the Career Fair and subsequent Interview Day.

The RIT career fairs provide graduating seniors and graduate students opportunities to meet with hiring employers, while undergraduate students discuss co-op options to further their skills. In addition to the main fairs, accounting majors host an Accounting Fair. Additionally, students meet with potential employers through mentorship programs, guest speakers and company visit events that occur throughout the year.

### DAY ONE | career ready

- Strong industry connections, offering real world experiences in and outside of the classroom
- Among the world's oldest and largest cooperative educational programs
- 94% placement rates

### DAY ONE | enterprising mindset

- Pioneering Biz 1-2 program
- #1 student innovation center, Venture Creations Incubator, and over 200 clubs to join
- Ranked #21 nationally for entrepreneurship

### DAY ONE | stand out

- Over 80 minors available across all 9 RIT colleges
- Nationally recognized STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs
- Students develop unique personal brands that employers seek

### DAY ONE | connected

- Small class sizes, 100% taught by faculty
- Low student to faculty ratios, and highly accessible faculty
- Plugged into over 118,000 RIT alumni and large university resources

**THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES AND COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROVIDE SERVICES TO RIT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI, SUPPORTING THEIR LEARNING, CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT GOALS**

**OFFICE of CAREER SERVICES and COOPERATIVE EDUCATION**

As part of one of the oldest and largest career service offices in the country, career coordinators are able to provide Saunders College of Business students with diverse job opportunities across all industries as RIT can uniquely attract.

As dedicated resources to Saunders College majors, career coordinators give business students the specialized attention and expertise specific to their majors.



**MARIA RICHART**

Associate Director for International Outreach, Career Services Coordinator International Business & Management



**TABITHA ARRENDALL**

Career Services Coordinator Marketing & New Media Marketing



**JULIAN HUENERFAUTH**

Career Services Coordinator Accounting, Finance & MIS

This unique structure of the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education helps coordinators give students unparalleled access to companies and their evolving needs, while also providing students with the most relevant guidance for their specific careers.

Countless resources are available ranging from job search preparation, resume writing, researching companies, mock interviews, guest speakers, employer campus visits, and co-op expertise.

**For Enterprising Students and Creative Enterprises**



Rochester Institute of Technology, founded 1829

saunders.rit.edu



**... continued from reverse**

with other employees to gain insights into their extensive industry knowledge. "My favorite part of the co-op experience is when I was hired by Zendo, an electronics manufacturer, to travel to Taiwan and China to learn more about the product development process in foreign markets," said White. "Building a meaningful and relevant network can excel you and your experience to levels previously unimaginable."



Zachary White



Megan Cornelius

By engaging in several co-ops, students have the chance to learn new techniques and get an idea of the daily operations in their chosen career field. Multiple co-op opportunities mean students can test out small firms versus Big 4, or corporate versus non-profit organizations. Working at a co-op provides the opportunity to clearly define a career path, all while getting paid.

**Networking provides invaluable connections**

Most importantly, while students are working on co-op, they are networking. Megan Cornelius, a fourth year accounting student, recalls a networking trip to New York City that set her co-op



"Saunders students have the unique opportunity to take applied-learning from the classroom and translate it into real-world work experience thanks to co-ops. Whether working at an international organization or a small local business, the work experience allows students to be career ready on day one."

Jacqueline R. Mozrall, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor  
Saunders College of Business

into motion. "I met an RIT alumni and partner at EY (Ernst & Young). Within four weeks, after staying in touch, I received an offer." Through engaging conversation during the networking trip, and continuing the conversation over email, Megan had secured an interview, and ultimately the position. "My favorite part of working on co-op was all the people that I met," said Cornelius. "I learned so much about working in the professional world during my co-op. I experienced the accountability and professionalism needed to work at a Big-four company, and how essential teamwork is. The experience was amazing."

Zachary White also notes the importance of networking. "I have met more dedicated and hardworking people on my co-ops than I could possibly learn from. The most

valuable thing I have learned is that your life becomes what you make of it. You can take your future in to your own hands at RIT because they have all the right tools to do so."

**About cooperative education at RIT**

More than 3,600 students complete more than 5,300 work assignments each year. Annually, more than 1,900 companies and organizations, from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies participate in the program, and RIT students generate on average \$30 million in earnings through their employment with industry, business, government and non-profit organizations. All undergraduate business students complete at least one paid co-op and they are not required to pay tuition during a co-op semester, resulting in a significant financial benefit.

**saunders.rit.edu/features**

Saunders College of Business is one of nine colleges at Rochester Institute of Technology and is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB). Recognized and ranked, Saunders is home to more than 1,000 enrolled students with over 18,000 alumni worldwide. Partnerships with RIT's Venture Creations incubator and top ranked Albert J. Simone Center for Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship help Saunders College deliver a business education that is integrated with RIT's world-leading technical and creative programs. Saunders College offers undergraduate (BS), Masters (MS), Masters of Business Administration (MBA), and Executive MBA (EMBA) programs where students gain real-world business experiences in the classroom and through cooperative education programs.



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