

Students may substitute *one* summer block of creative, innovative or research (SE CIR) activities related to software engineering for a traditional co-op experience. Examples include contributing to research projects, supervised participation in entrepreneurial activities, and cross-disciplinary innovation projects not otherwise eligible for co-op. Students will follow a structured application process prior to registering for the course. They will submit a plan of work that outlines the proposed activities, defines tangible goals and deliverables, and identifies a person (faculty member, business contact, etc.) who will provide oversight throughout the quarter. At the conclusion of the term students will follow an assessment process similar to that used for traditional co-op.

Guidelines for a Software Engineering CIR Experience

- A. The student work must be commensurate with his or her education and abilities as a software engineering student. The work must clearly require the student to apply the concepts and techniques described by the Software Engineering Program Outcomes.
- B. The student must have completed one block of traditional co-op (SWEN-499) before starting a SE CIR. SE CIR credit will not be given for any work performed prior completing the first co-op block.
- C. A SE CIR block is one summer block in length and credit will be granted for at most *one* such block.
- D. The student may register for a maximum of one additional course of up to three credits during the SE CIR term.
- E. A request for an SE CIR must be made no later than two weeks prior to the start of registration for the term of the proposed CIR block. Requests for retroactive credit, i.e. after the work has begun, will be denied without review. All proposals will be assessed for suitability by the department's curriculum committee.
- F. The request for SE CIR credit must include the following:
 - A project proposal or statement of need describing the project, including a rationale, an initial plan of work with a schedule and demonstrable milestones, and expected tangible deliverables at the end of the experience.
 - A discussion of how the proposed work assignment will require the student to practice specific program outcomes of the software engineering program.

- A statement by an individual identified for the student's oversight that he or she will provide evaluative feedback on the student's work at the end of the SE CIR quarter.
- G. During the SE CIR the student must maintain a daily log of hours worked and activities performed during work time. The student is also responsible for reporting on a weekly basis to the individual responsible for the SE CIR oversight.
- H. Upon completion of the SE CIR block, the student will receive credit after submission and departmental review of the following materials: an evaluation by the individual responsible for the student's oversight; the daily time and activity logs; a report describing the project work and the student's experiences on this SE CIR assignment.

Unacceptable CIR Experience Scenarios

Scenario	Comments
Work on the side while attending school.	CIR is not a part-time activity, it is full-time work. While we are pleased that many of our students find part-time jobs, we remind them that to get the benefit of <i>CIR</i> they need to disengage from school and work full-time on the project.
Work writing code before coming to RIT or prior to eligibility for a CIR.	With virtually no understanding of basic software engineering principles, work that the student might have done prior to being eligible for <i>CIR</i> is likely to have been just coding.

Develop software for a relative, a friend or an acquaintance.

The nature of the relationship between the student and the person for whom he/she works casts doubt on the quality of the work done and the performance evaluation submitted by the student's relative, friend, or acquaintance.

Use the first few weeks of work after graduation as CIR.

CIR is intended to enrich the student's academic experience *prior* to graduation.