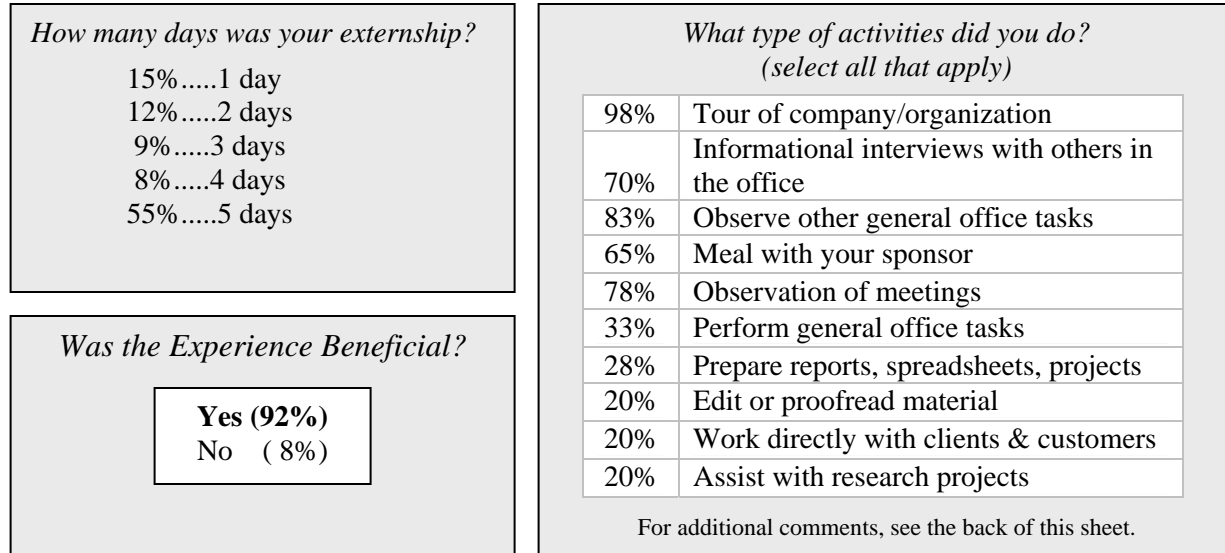


## What 2007 Extern Students Had to Say...

Upon completion of the January 2007 Externship Program (96% response rate), participating students were asked to complete a survey to give feedback on a variety of topics including the activities of the externship, what they liked, what they did not like. Below you will find some of the highlights obtained from this survey:



### What can our sponsors do in the future to improve the Externship Program (just a sample of responses)?

“Every sponsor should do what mine did. My week was semi-planned but not definite. By placing me on such a large project there was an indefinite amount of work to do. Also, with large high-profile projects there is great attention to detail and there are always problems that need to be worked out. Compared to my last externship, you get so much more when you work on something like this, in engineering anyways. In short, I would make sure that each sponsor was willing to place the extern on their biggest project, most complex assignment, largest team, or with the biggest client--whatever the case may be.”

“When asked, I told my sponsor the externship could be improved some by allowing me to sit in on more meetings. I had the opportunity to sit in on one meeting and it was very interesting to see how companies collaborate on design projects.”

“Ask if they have a GPA requirement to get a co-op there before sending us there. They told me at the end of day that they are looking for people with a 3.0 to work there, which I do not have. I was kind of embarrassed.”

“I don't really have any suggestions for improvement of the Externship Program. Everything went very smoothly for me and I had no problems. Everyone was very informative. Thank you so very much for the opportunity!!!”

“By the fourth day of my externship there wasn't really anything left to do as far as getting to know the company, touring the plant, and interviewing with other workers. Mr. Zuraw and I both agreed that three days would probably have been plenty sufficient for the experience. It was his first year being a sponsor for the externship program and he did not know how many days it should last”

“Make sure when the extern gets to the company, there is work planned and a schedule to follow because that is more organized then coming and not knowing what to do at first”

“The companies should be a little bit more prepared for the extern. They should plan out the week with activities the extern can participate in. I found myself just watching videos all day some days and not having much hands on experience.”

“Ask the sponsors if there is any site clearance issues that need to be addressed and to make sure that the extern will be able to be allowed on the job site before the week begins.”

**Briefly describe any additional activities you participated in as part of your externship.**

“We got to feed the tigers and see how that was handled, as well as did some routine cleaning of their cages.”

“I worked in the field of the construction site and was able to help to coordinate the different processes which were working, as well as help find solutions to problems that arose.”

“I assisted (my sponsor) in assessing student's resumes, cover sheets, and other material, as well as assisted in helping students find contacts in the RU alumni network. We also aided people in job searches and internship searches”

“I spent a lot of time helping the workers build their product. The actual amount of time I spent with any engineers was only about two hours. Those two hours did make my trip worth it. The workers taught me a lot about how their product works.”

“Went on ride with Police patrol cars during the day and night.”

“I had the opportunity to sit in on a JAD session (Joint Application Development). There were employees there from all over the country. I got to see the interactions of different people, and watch them all work together to solve a problem that was acceptable to all of them.”

“We directly worked hands-on with parts for the Hubble Space Telescope.”

“I got to test out the booms on aerial trucks by riding in them and running electric currents through them. I got some training on a new plasma cutting machine.”

“I was able to tour and shadow the Winchester Hospital Surgical Center. I was able to see multiple surgical tasks and operations, such as a pulpectomy and pulpotomy. I also was able to see other doctors performing operations, such as the removal of the tonsils and putting tubes in children's ears, through glass windows.”

“I was one of five externs at the company so it was nice to be able to relate with and talk to the other college students about their experiences during or after an activity.”

“I spent two days attached to a Geophysical Crew from their West Chester, PA office which was in Maryland doing tons of work. I directly participated with those guys and did numerous hands on field work for 12 hours a day. I went to three large Mirant Power superstations where they are constructing and expanding large portions of the plants and did downhole shearwave testing and resistivity data collecting, in addition to being stationed with two drilling crews who were doing rock coring on site. Other days consisted of being placed on a drill rig in downtown Baltimore at the Johns Hopkins Hospital where they are building a new section, and also spending a day touring and meeting with project managers for the Hilton Hotel and Conference site, looking at concrete pumping and shotcreting techniques, geopiers, caisson installations. I spent afternoons in the lab doing soil classifying and concrete core breaking tests.”

**What did you learn about the career field as a result of your externship?**

“Frankly, about a month prior to my externship I had decided that civil engineering was not the career path that I wanted to take. However, after my experience with (my sponsor), I am rethinking my decision and am on the fence right now with which career path I would like to take. I must say that my externship truly showed me what civil engineering is like in the real world, and I must say that it was a very pleasant surprise.”

“I learned that my major is definitely right for me and its something I am going to enjoy doing. Most people said technology is important to know, but if you are in that field you won't grow unless you know more and business is a way to be able to interact with people and understand the business world as well.”

“I learned more than I can write in this box. The experience was very hands on and I learned about the engineering perspective from the point of view of engineers who are in charge of actually getting something built rather than just design.”