

Why Should I Apply?



“ The GREAT program is one that I suggest all engineering students become involved in. Everyone has an idea of what to do when meeting future employers, but the GREAT program helped me finalize some of my ideas and guided me with great pointers and connections. If it wasn't for GREAT, I would not have the amazing internship that I do today with a great opportunity for my future. ”

- Lysie Headley
EMET sophomore
and GREAT Intern at Siemens

Demonstrate to employers that you are a top student.

Become a “sought after” recruit whose academic excellence is bolstered by real world experience.

Build your skills now.

Receive specialized, on-the-job training from professionals in your field. By developing your professional skills and contacts now, you will have a head start on your career.

Gain insight into your future.

Explore and refine your personal career interests by working in the field during college.

Put your new knowledge to work.

Take advantage of exclusive opportunities to apply and interview for internships with participating companies and receive notification of other career-building opportunities.

Earn while you learn.

Offset the expenses of your college education while gaining relevant work experience. This isn't your typical part-time job.



Siemens site visit

Apply now!

Apply to the GREAT Program

GREAT Program applications are available online at newkingsington.psu.edu/great-program. In addition to the application form, please include the following information:

- two letters of recommendation
- an essay (500 words) explaining why you are interested in the GREAT Program.

Submit your application online. Review of applications and selection of participants occurs in April for fall start. Notification of acceptance is sent before May 1.

Apply to Penn State

Still need to apply for admission to Penn State New Kensington?
Get started today by visiting us online:
newkingsington.psu.edu/admissions

Penn State New Kensington
Office of Admissions
3550 Seventh Street Road, Rt. 780
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-LION or 888-968-PAWS
nkadmissions@psu.edu
newkingsington.psu.edu/great-program



The G.R.E.A.T. Program
connecting promising students
with local opportunities
in engineering and technology



PennState
New Kensington



Construction site visit

The G.R.E.A.T. Program

The GREAT Program (Growing Regional Excellence through Experience, Academics and Training) is an experiential learning initiative available only at Penn State New Kensington.

The program is designed to match promising Penn State New Kensington students with local opportunities. The GREAT program is a partnership among Penn State New Kensington, the Penn State Electro-Optics Center and industries within the greater Pittsburgh region.

Unlike other programs, the GREAT Program provides qualified students with the opportunity to build professional skills and experiences starting as soon as their first year at Penn State. Students have the potential to obtain a paid internship in the field of engineering or Information Sciences and Technology (IST), which may continue for up to four years, or for as long as they are enrolled at Penn State.

Don't wait until your junior or senior year to start gaining real experience! If you are enrolling in one of Penn State's highly respected engineering or IST degree programs, apply for the GREAT Program and gain exposure right away.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be considered, applicants must:

- Be accepted to Penn State New Kensington in:
 - The Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology (EMET) program,
 - Any 4-year engineering program, or
 - Information Sciences & Technology;
- Have a high school grade point average of at least 3.3;
- Have SAT math score at or above 500.

Program Details

Diverse professional development programs are held throughout the year for students in the GREAT Program. After attending several seminars, students interview for competitive internships with our partner companies (below). Those students who interview successfully and are selected by company representatives will earn a paid internship. Generally speaking, these professional internship experiences will be part-time (10 hours per week) during the student's fall and spring semesters, and a full-time (40 hours per week) internship for the summer.

GREAT Partner Companies



Unique Program Opportunities

Long-Term Internships

Baccalaureate students who earn internships through the competitive interview process have the potential to continue in their positions until graduation.

As long as students remain qualified for the GREAT Program as well as for employment with the partner company, they may participate in the program until they have completed their degree.

Professional Seminars

Those accepted into the program participate in a series of professional development seminars. These take place a few times each semester and cover topics related to engineering and IST careers, resume and interview preparation, and networking with professionals.

Past seminar topics have covered:

- Communication Skills
- Becoming an Engineering and/or Technology Professional
- Expectations from Employers
- Project Management

Participants' Responsibilities

In order to remain eligible to participate in the GREAT Program, students must:

- Remain enrolled in a Penn State Engineering, EMET, or IST program;
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0;
- Participate in required professional development events throughout the year.

Students who gain internships through the GREAT Program will:

- Work 40 hours/week during the summer at their internship site while earning a competitive hourly wage determined by the employer;
- Work 10 hours/week during the semester at their internship site while earning a competitive hourly wage determined by the employer;
- Meet employer expectations. Students must exhibit quality performance and conduct, as well as maintain high academic standards in order to remain qualified for employment with their partner company and the GREAT Program.

“ The GREAT Program has given me the incredible opportunity to work with an international company and learn first-hand how projects go from planning to design to finished product. It has been so rewarding to see projects I have worked on be successfully completed. ”

-Justin Koscianski
Mechanical Engineering senior
and Alcoa Technology Center GREAT Intern