Co-op Job Summary

Name: Rannie Zhang
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Major: Operations Research and Information Engineering
Employer: CRP Industries
Term: 2013 Summer, 2013 Fall

Co-op Work Assignment

I worked for both the Operations department and Purchasing departments in the company, with a major concentration for Operations. Operations department is in charge of running the company effectively, smoothly and professionally. Functions include but not limited to: fulfilling work orders, building kits for shipment, sending and receiving shipments. During the seven months in the company, I worked on four projects, three for Operations department and one for Purchasing department. The projects are: production time study, re-slotting of stored products, outbound freight analysis, and life cycle management. There is no formal orientation, but there are weekly recurring meetings within our department. During these meetings we go over personnel updates, short term goals, and new issues from the past week. Director of Operations, George Evanego, is my boss who I directly approach to when I have questions.

Assessment of Learning and Development

I study Operations Research and Information Engineering, so Operations department is the direct place to work at. Some course material in ORIE 3120: Industrial Data and Systems Analysis and ORIE 3300: Optimization is applied during my seven months of Co-op term. Excel spreadsheet skills are widely used in the process as well. During this period, I observed working condition in the warehouse and also participated in some shop floor activities such as packing sleeves, checking in skids of products, printing
out part labels, etc. This position helped me gain a concrete view on functions of Operations department within the industry and interactions among different departments. Because of this experience, I am more confident walking into an interview room to talk about my projects and opinions in the industry. This position has also improved my communication skills. I learned to be respectful and think twice when talk to others, listening is as important as expressing my own views, etc. If I were to go through the same experience again, I would not do anything differently.

Life Out-side of Co-op

I highly recommend my household: 54 Cranbury Neck Road, Cranbury, NJ, 08512. It is in the Cranbury area, about 10 to 15 minutes’ drive to the company, close to stores and restaurants. My family has also expressed their interest in hosting more Co-op students in the future. Staying with them has been total pleasure. The family is very welcoming, kind and open. I would love to stay with them longer if I don’t have to go back to school.

A car is required for transportation. There is no means of public transportation around the area and bikes are dangerous to ride since most roads do not have bike lanes.

The train takes about an hour to get to Penn Station in New York City. On the weekends I also go to the Six Flags Great Adventures occasionally. Princeton University and Rutgers University are also close by, which are good places to go visit and experience their college life.

The company offers opportunities to participate in 8K, half-marathon and marathon running races for athletic purposes.

Evaluation
The best feature of this job is that I was exposed to real life situations and gained experience on workspace culture. One feature that would be beneficial is to let new Co-op students read our job summaries before they start working.

Additional Info

One tip future Co-ops: not be afraid of asking questions and enjoy your projects.