What types of engineering did you study?	How did you find the workload in university	What is the biggest difference between university and high school?	Did your undergrad have a design project, if yes can you comment on it (what it was, time commitment, etc)	Did you find the co-op program (if you had one) valuable?
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Chemical	7	Time management is a big thing, and also knowing/finding out how you learn and study best (what worked in high school may not work in university). University moves at a much faster pace and the responsibility is on you to take initiative to learn and ask questions.	Yes we had a design project component in chemical engineering (we worked in groups of 3-4). I did mine on process controls. You usually pick a group, a professor sponsor, and a project about 8 months before it's due. Time commitment varied for us as we had to be inside a lab for part of it actually carrying out experiments - that part took longer so probably for the span of a month we were spending 12-15 hours every week on it.	Yes. SUPER valuable. Came out of university debt free and had a bunch of transferable skills - even simple things like knowing how Outlook works (the things people don't teach you in school like booking a meeting). Co-op gives you a chance to develop and test skills in a safe environment - people know you are just a student so they don't expect you to be super good at anything, as long as you are willing to learn you usually can succeed. Also, co-op helped me land my full-time job and gave me a bunch of connections.
Chemical	10	You need to really put in the effort and work hard. Good marks don't come easily. Good marks are also not necessarily the end goal - you can still get a very good job whether you graduate at the top of the class or somewhere below. You need to learn your own style of studying and learning material that might not be the same as what you had done in high school.	Design of a low sodium snack product. Time commitment was significant because you have a lot of freedom to design and explore different areas as you like (and as your sponsor guides you). This was a highlight of my fourth year though. I really enjoyed the project work, and I enjoyed the topic very much.	Yes, very much! Coming out of school, you know very little to offer in to the work world. But having some skills developed through co-op experience allows you to develop some of the soft skills like how to lead meetings, how to speak and conduct yourself professionally, working in projects. Co-op gives you a taste of that so you have some advantage once you graduate.
Chemical Engineering, mostly	7	The onus of learning is now on you. No one will chase you down if you skip class or blow off assignments. The world will move on without you. On the flip side, you have the freedom to study in the way that best suits you. If you can never attend a class and get an A, power to you! Do you work best between the hours of 11pm and 4am? Burn that midnight oil, friend.	Yes, 4th year design project. Simulation of a chemical processing unit. Time commitment was nominally the same as a regular class. It was not very exciting. Engineering competitions and student teams are much more fun.	Yes -- it showed me all sorts of things I didn't want to do after I graduated

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Computer	7	In university, things get taught much faster and you have to keep up with it on your own. No one keeps track of you like in high school, so if you're lazy, you will end up failing.	Yes, our team of 4 made an electronic dart scoring system that uses a camera pointed to a regular dartboard. The time commitment was manageable. We worked on it a few hours every week for an entire term and then had some late nights pushing to get it done at the end.	Yes, being in co-op is amazing. Especially if you are looking at software development, the things you learn at work will blow what you learn in the classroom out of the water. You will get pushed to the limits very often and you will gain valuable experience about your field.
comp	8	Can skip. But you will regret it.	Yes. It is pretty much the app "Circle". Location based social networking. Was done on Motorola RAZRs, the best phone at the time. A lot more documentation than actual engineering. Kinda like the real world.	Yes. Paid for school. Good experience. Do it if you can.

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Electrical	8	Workload and expectations.	Applied hidden Markov model to gesture recognition from accelerometers. About 30-50 hours to research and generate the sensor system, and to set up a collection package for it.	Yes. Real work in the field is a very different experience, even if you don't always get the fun projects. A chance to try different job types, but also easy to get pigeonholed into a given field. Also, the pay is nice to offset the student loans.
Electrical Engineering	9	No one is babysitting you. You have to be disciplined or else you will fail	Robotics, database system, real time operating system. Time commitment - lots of late nights at the labs.	Extremely
Electrical	8	Workload and difficulty of concepts. Plus you need to actually take initiative to study	Yes. Mainly on 4th year. Took us infinite amount of effort and time.	Mostly are because you learn the working environment on a less intimidating setting

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Mechanical	8	the need for much more self-discipline - a lot more distractions teachers want to help you, but aren't going to spoon feed you your peers will make you feel insignificant, but you can't let that discourage you. mediocre smart and self-disciplined will win out over really smart and no discipline.	worked on solar car team - aerodynamics analysis for body. Maybe 50-100 hours? 50 (direct on project), another 50 working on other solar car stuff	extremely valuable - got my full time job from co-op placement
Mechanical	8	The sheer amount of work. 40 hour weeks just from classes, tutorials, and labs.	I had to "design" the structure for a solar powered house. Due to the nature of the project, we really got no say in what the design looked like. We merely reported what the master students did.	Yes, only if you tried your best to make the best of it. All the interviewing happens during the normal school term and exams. You could easily have an interview before or after an exam. The amount of effort you put in to look for good jobs and land contacts is how much more you'll get out of it. There are people who land jobs right at graduation because they made good use of their coop experience.
Mechanical	7	- You're all on your own. No one else there to motivate you besides yourself and maybe some friends. - A much greater scale (# students, class sizes, etc.) - More technically focused on your discipline once through first year.	Yes: Designed a specialized walker/runner for a young disabled girl (seizures/balance problems) to allow her to compete in thiathlons. I spent approximately as much time every week on that project as I did my other courses.	Yes. Although I never got hired by any of my coop employers, it gave me great opportunities to not only understand what I liked to do but also what I didn't like to do. I was originally set on the Automotive Industry going into Mechanical Engineering but soon realized through a couple co-ops that it wasn't where I wanted to end up. It also gave me a great resume of experience and I was hired full time before I finished my undergrad.
Mechanical	8	Lots more people in the classes (100). No one is chasing after you. You can leave things to last minute and cram, but you will pay for it. It's not so matter of if, but when it will catch up to you. Some people can even get away with doing so in university, but because you will have learnt and retained very little, you will pay dearly in the workplace when you don't know your stuff.	Yup, but it was pretty easy. Comparable in work load to most involved project in high school.	EXTREMELY! It helped me see what I liked and didn't like in terms of industry and job types.
Mechanical	8	workload, having to work at all hours in the day, need improved study habits, having lecture/tutorial/lab format,	yes design project, it was a potential project on electric blinds on the UW Solar house. time commitment embedded in our courseload, which was about 3-6 hours a week	Yes. gives you work experience, know how to handle yourself in a company at a younger age, beefs up resume, gives you valuable moving experience if out of ur hometown

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Mechanical, Biomedical	8	You need to take more initiative in your education in university than in high school. You need to engage your professors, take opportunities to learn more than just what is covered in the lectures because this is how you will build a career after school.	Mechanical: Yes, I worked on the Carleton University Simulator Project (CUSP). It was a joint initiative between Carleton University, CAE Inc, NRC Canada and the Canadian Air Force to develop a multi-purpose vehicle simulator for pilot training. It was a multi-disciplinary project with Mechanical, Electrical, Computer Systems and Aerospace engineering students making up 7 different teams working on various aspects of the project. The time commitment for this project was huge. Everything was done on top of the regular full time course work load. We often stayed on campus in the labs until 2 or 3 AM to complete certain parts. This was a 2 semester (8 months) project. Biomedical: Also yes, but a much smaller design project. This was an individual project where I designed a portable water purification system for use in third world countries. It had to be low cost manufacturing and running costs, simple components for easy repair and still able to create potable drinking water. Since the scope of the project was smaller, so was the time commitment. For this project, I only needed roughly 20 hours per week outside of class time for a single semester (4 months).	Yes, the co-op program is a must. Without it, it's much more difficult to know what you want to do and to network your way into a job.
Mechanical and Industrial	7		I can't remember but it was a lot of work.	Absolutely, get paid and nice break from school.

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Mechatronics & Mechanical	9	You must dedicate almost twice as much time in order to receive similar grades. Making use of pockets of time - could have a couple hours between classes. Going to class all day long - 8am-10pm potentially More social activities and groups - you must balance your time better and sacrifice some things, for example I had to cut down on the number of sports I played in University as compared to high school.	Yes, but mine was a combined engineering capstone design project mixed with a management capstone project. We designed an automated roll press for beding aluminum and shearing it into the proper pieces. This project was for a company out in the industry and thus we also had to look at the business case for the project. We had to design for purpose - did the business case warrent a machine to produce 10 a minute or did we only need 1 a minute to meet projections and stay within an appropriate budget. The time commitment was large, maybe 15-25 hours a week in my final year. Visiting the company and other companies for supplying equipment / estimates.	Yes - It is always good to graduate with experience in you field. Although my co-op program itself was pretty basic, the actual work experience part is critical. You also gain knowledge into creating resumes and good interview tips.
Mechatronics	7	intensity of workload, amount of workload, interviewing for jobs with waterloo coop, living with friends/fellow students, campus fellowship	environmentally friendly window blinds project. it was lame and we didn't put much effort into it :P did the minimum	INCREDIBLY. most valuable part of Waterloo. and I'd recommend strongly to everyone.