Earn-Learn Program

Most college students work part time to help pay for school. The unique, hands-on Earn-Learn Program in the CU College of Engineering and Applied Science provides apprenticeships for students to earn spending, book, and tuition income. At the same time, they perform résumé-worthy engineering work, gain valuable educational and programmatic insight about their chosen fields, and develop networking relationships with faculty and staff.

The Earn-Learn Program is made possible by gifts from donors. Earn-Learn gifts will be matched 1:1 by the host department. Most students work 10 hours a week, earning at least $3,000 for the academic year.

You also can create an Earn-Learn endowment in your family name or in honor of your favorite professor for a minimum contribution of $25,000. In this way, you can ensure that many students will earn and learn for unlimited years to come.

Whether you create an endowment or fund a student annually, your gift will enable a student to earn additional money, learn new skills, and assist the college in delivering high-quality programs.

Unlike merit-based or need-based scholarships, an Earn-Learn apprenticeship is rooted in earning a stipend while learning a new task or skill.

Undergraduate and Graduate Students Apply Their Engineering Skills

- Assisting with courses
- Developing laboratory exercises
- Mentoring other students
- Helping faculty on projects

Earn-Learn Named Endowment

- $25,000 — supports one student after match, every year

Earn-Learn Full Annual Support

- $3,000 — supports two students after match

Earn-Learn Partial Annual Support*

- $1,500 — supports one student after match

*Amounts smaller than $1,500 will be pooled to support as many students as possible
Choose the Type of Student You Support

While departments select Earn-Learn students for specific positions, donors can identify certain criteria for students they would like to support. For example:

> Would you like to support an undergraduate or graduate student?
> What department would you like to host your Earn-Learn student?

“Through Earn-Learn we have been able to offer more service learning positions to undergraduates, who have been critical to the quality of programming we offer our surrounding community.”
— Bernadette Garcia, Space Grant Outreach Coordinator

“My work has been an ideal synthesis of the theory learned in many of the classes I have taken and practical application that one can only get from working with those concepts at a hands-on level.”
— Mark Nackowiz, student

“Earn-Learn is a flexible work experience. I don’t think many employers would allow me to make last minute changes to my work schedule for school-related requirements such as studying for a test and stepping away to meet with project groups. Earn-Learn allows me to maximize time for studying, extracurricular activities, and volunteering.”
— Bradford Peagler, Senior, Civil Engineering

Rachel Danson
Master’s Candidate, Applied Mathematics
Rachel’s Earn-Learn apprenticeship as a grader gave her hands-on experience in teaching that reinforced her decision to attend graduate school and eventually teach at the college level. “It allowed me to focus on developing teaching skills instead of working another job that would not have been as closely knit with my plans for the future.”