Proposal:

Make 0-credit internship/co-op courses pass/fail

Current state:

0-credit internship courses are given out each term to students who take part in the university's cooperative education and internship program. Students must complete an application process through Handshake, which involves approval of the experience from academic advisors and employer supervisors. Upon approval, Career Services provides a course registration number (CRN) to the student, which allows the student to have official recognition of their experience on their official transcript, and for international students, keeps them in-status while they complete the internship experience.

Reason for the Request:

While there is an incentive for students to seek official recognition of their experience through Career Services, there is no incentive for them to provide any feedback on the experience concurrent to the experience and after it is completed. For the university to better understand how students are faring in these experiences, and to be able to provide quality control and interventions, when necessary, a pass/fail option would provide that incentive for students to submit evaluations from their experience.

With a pass/fail option, I plan to require students to submit a mid-term self-evaluation, a final self-evaluation, and a final evaluation of the student by the employer. In the future, as we build a more robust cooperative education program, it also possibly allows for the development of other appropriate assignments to be completed during the experience. I believe that a student will not want to have a failing grade on their transcript, even if it is a 0-credit experience.