# Survey: Ready For Co-Op?

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To better understand the impact of various co-op prep activities that we offer the students, I ran a poll of the Software Engineering Class of 2023 about how ready they felt for co-op and about the perceived usefulness of the activities. I polled the students in the middle of the main first interview cycle, and received 32 responses out of a class size of 132. All responses go from 1 = "not useful" to 5 = "very useful".
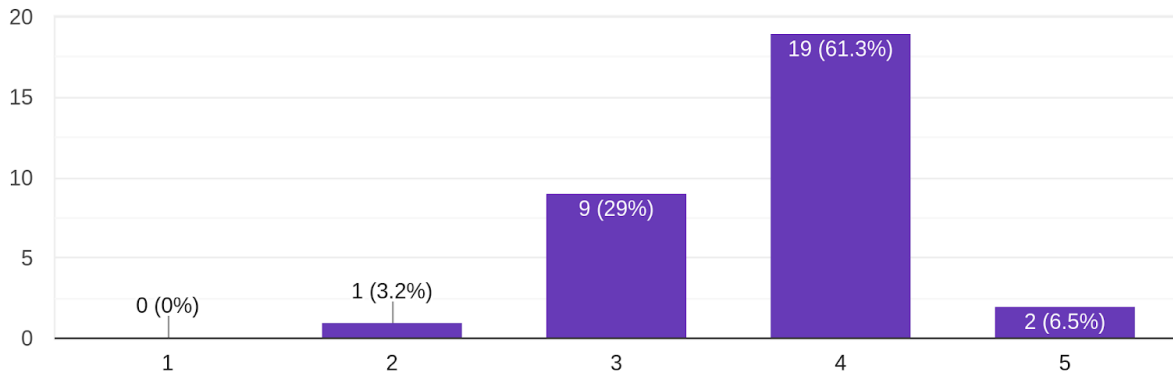
How prepared did you feel for getting a co-op job at the start of 1B?

31 responses
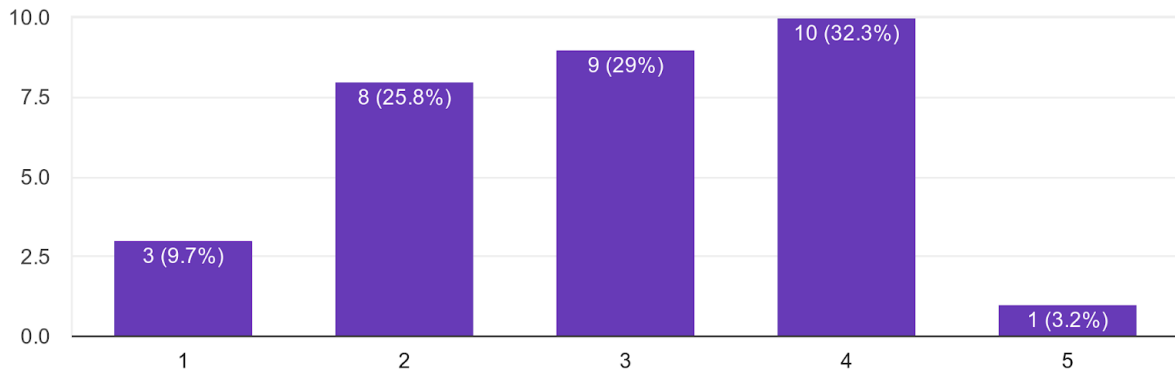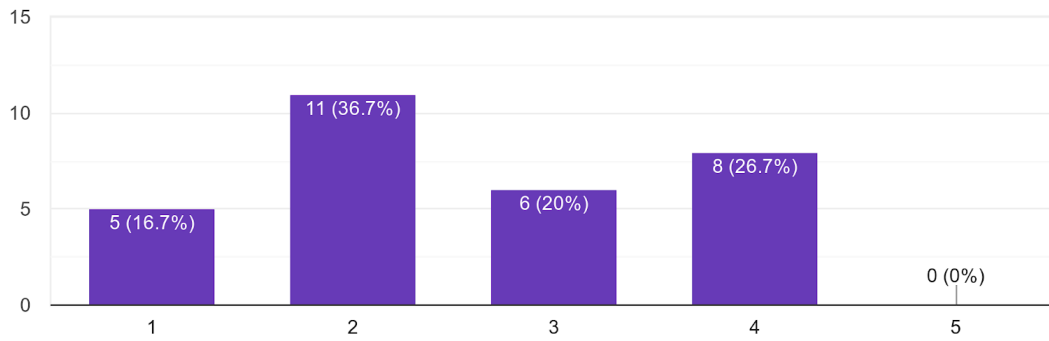

How prepared do you feel now?

31 responses

The next questions focus on particular prep activities. CECA comes to SE 101 and talks about co-op a term before SE students actually apply for jobs, and then again in SE 102 when they are applying.
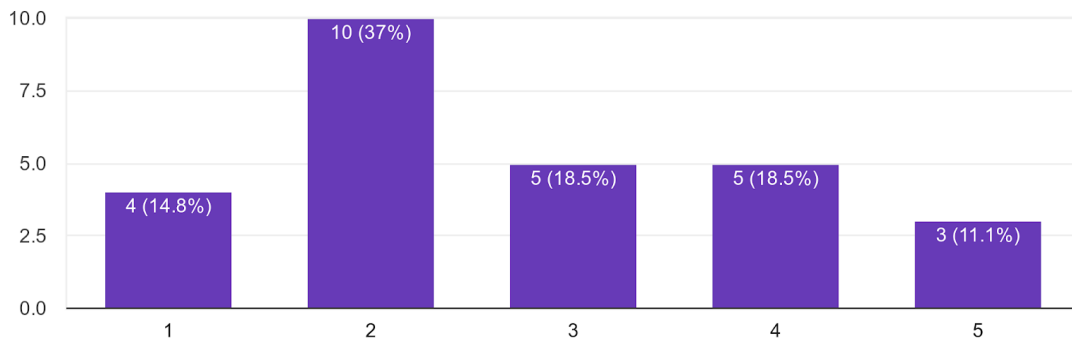
Co-op Fundamentals in SE 101 (1A)
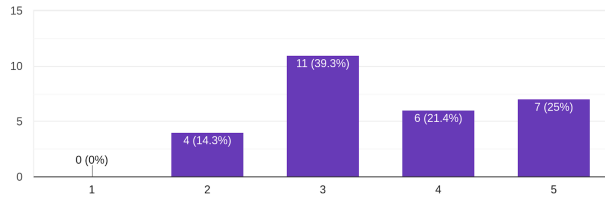
30 responses

Co-op Fundamentals session in 1B

27 responses

The SE Society organizes, in cooperation with the SE program administration, a number of events for first-year students, including Q&A periods and student panels.
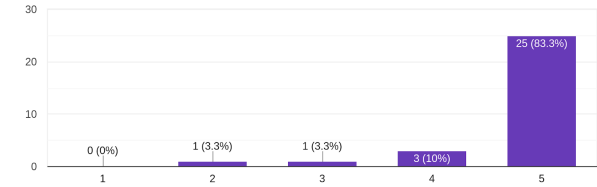
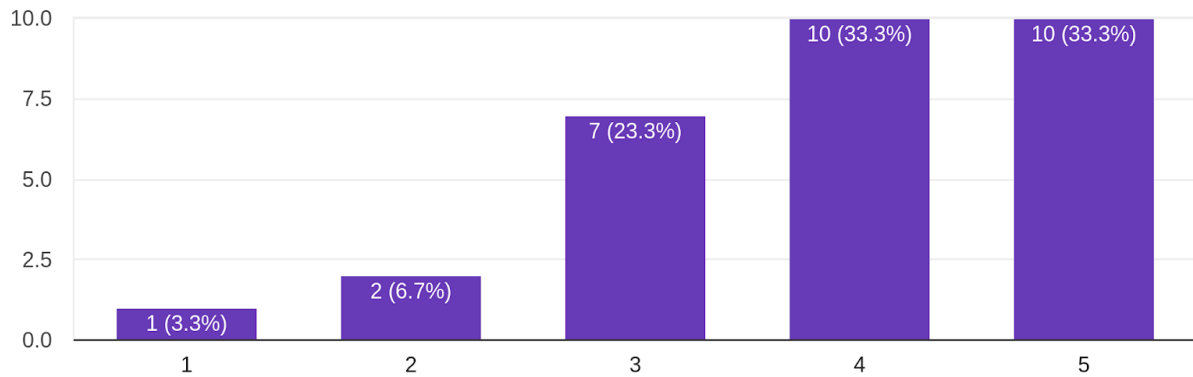**"What I wish I knew in 1B"**
28 responses

Rating	Count
1	0 (0%)
2	4 (14.3%)
3	11 (39.3%)
4	6 (21.4%)
5	7 (25%)

SE Society resumé critiques
30 responses

Rating	Count
1	0 (0%)
2	1 (3.3%)
3	1 (3.3%)
4	3 (10%)
5	25 (83.3%)

Kash (SE2021) interview prep talk
30 responses

Rating	Count
1	1 (3.3%)
2	2 (6.7%)
3	7 (23.3%)
4	10 (33.3%)
5	10 (33.3%)

Informal conversations with upper-years
26 responses

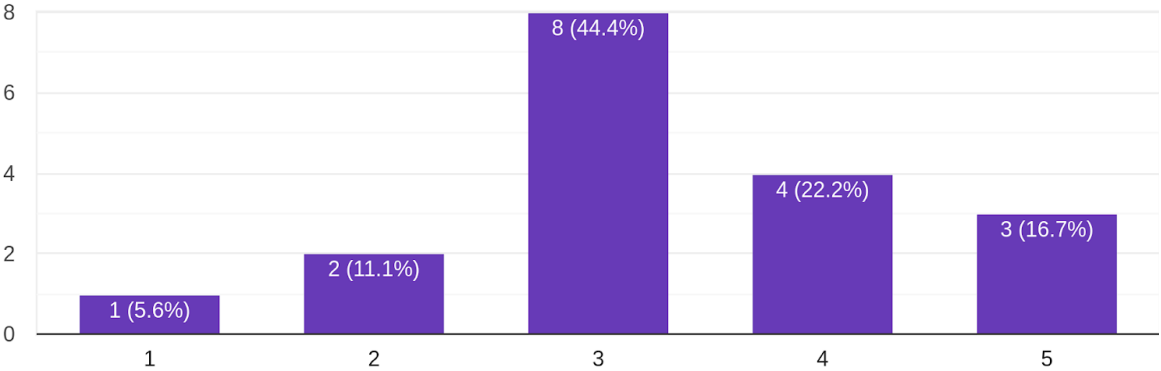| Rating	Count
1	1 (3.8%)
2	0 (0%)
3	7 (26.9%)
4	10 (38.5%)
5	8 (30.8%)
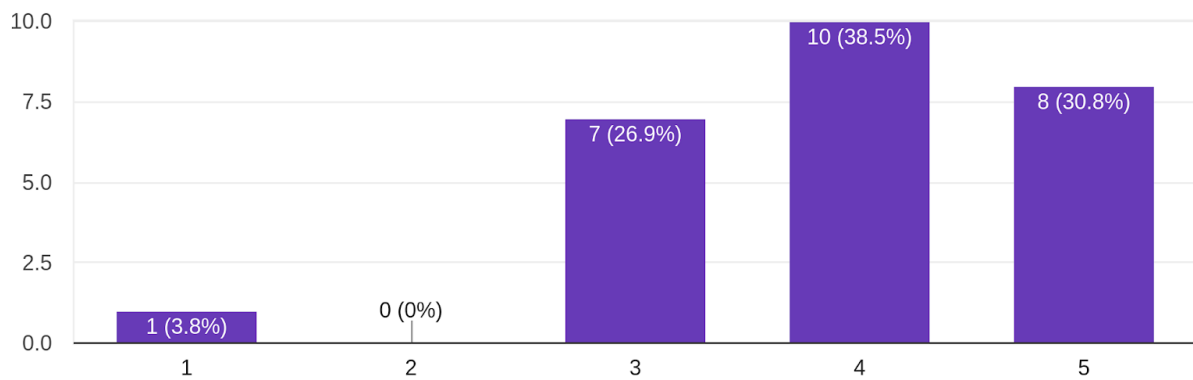
Other groups on campus, as well as CECA, also provide mock interview sessions and résumé critiques. I also asked students about the usefulness of these sessions.
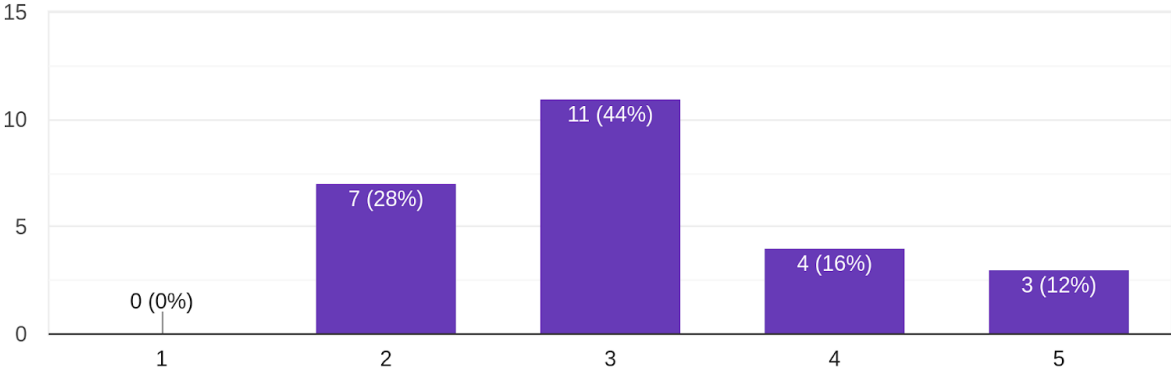
MathSoc mock interview sessions
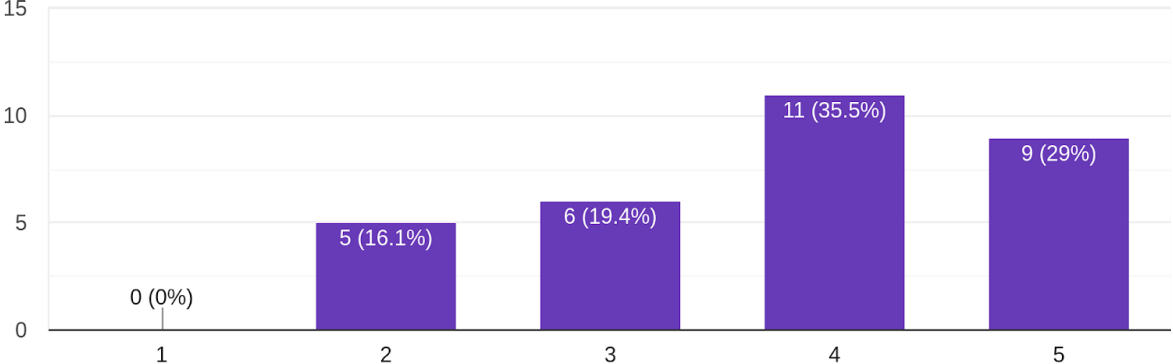18 responses

Other resumé critiques
25 responses

Student Perceptions & Background

The next questions ask about class cohesion and background.

## How supportive do you find your classmates in the co-op job search?
31 responses

I also ask about student expectations about co-op jobs. As of April 3, 79% of first-year software students have a co-op job. The number after main match was 62%. If recent trends continue, I expect the number of employed students to be almost 100% at the cut-off date.
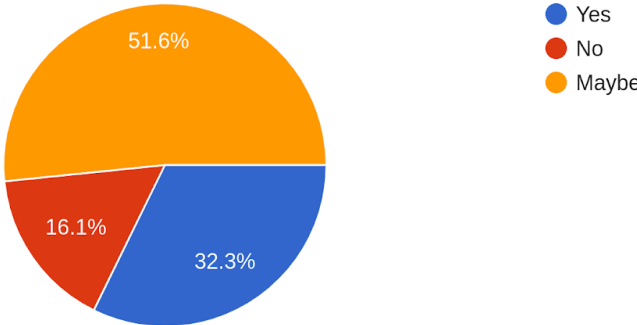
Do you think you will get a co-op job?
31 responses
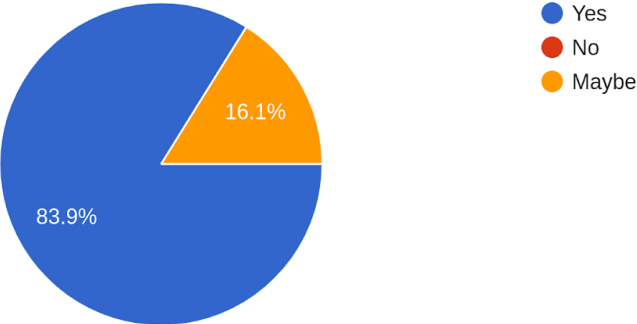
I left the definition of a "good job" purposefully vague.

Do you think you will get a good co-op job?
31 responses

Finally, I asked about previous experience. As selected for by our admissions criteria, most students have work experience, and many have had a tech job (again, left to the students to self-define) before coming to Waterloo.
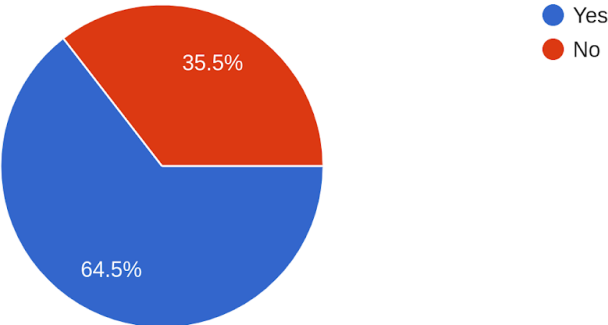
Did you have work experience before coming to the University of Waterloo?
31 responses

- Yes
- No

16.1%

83.9%
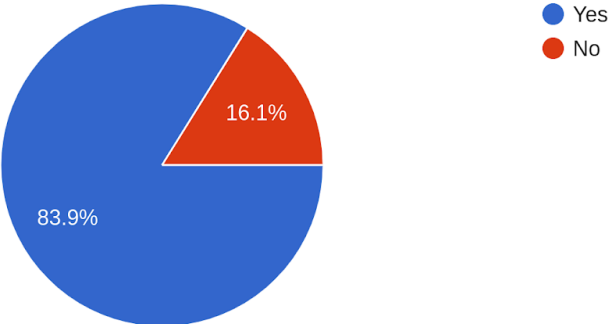
Did you have a tech job before coming to the University of Waterloo?
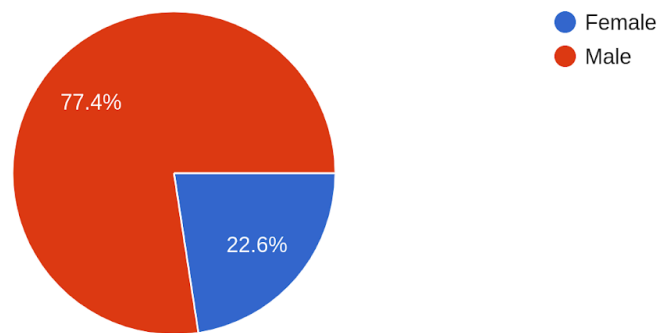31 responses

- Yes
- No

35.5%

64.5%

Demographics

These demographics match the demographics of the cohort as a whole. One could ask about crosstabs of the data (e.g. are students from outside North America less confident?), but I haven't yet computed them.

With which gender do you identify?
31 responses

- Female
- Male

77.4%

22.6%

Did you live in North America before coming to the University of Waterloo?
31 responses

- Yes
- No

93.5%