

# Richael Zhang

Hometown: Chandler, AZ

Co-Op Term: 5-Term Co-Op (4/5)

Company: The Lubrizol Corporation

Location: Spartanburg, SC

AIChE position (2022-2023): Outreach Committee



## Why did you decide to join the co-op program?

I honestly started doing it because it sounded like an easier way to get immense experience outside of interspersed summer breaks (also, the large sums of money doesn't hurt)

## What work do you do? Tell me a little about your favorite part of the job...

My first and fourth term was at pilot plant, where we bridged the gap between R&D and large-scale plants. My second term was process improvement engineering, and the following term was a traditional process engineering role at a smaller plant. My most recent rotation was with a business segment concerning fuel technology. My final role will be extrusion engineering in Summer 2023.

## What is your favorite part of being a co-op student?

I think the best thing about co-oping is being able to take a semester break from classes. It allowed me to mentally recuperate and not worry about grades as much. Of course it comes with missing your friends on campus, but that's what FaceTime is for! :)

## What advice do you have for students thinking of participating in the Co-Op program?

Don't be nervous about it! I know I was super stressed prior to my first term about not being competent or good enough. Looking back, that stress totally wasn't worth it. Companies understand that being new to the process is overwhelming, and they give you time to acclimate and learn.