Internship Experiences of Cybersecurity, Computing, and STEM Students: Differences Across and Between Disciplines

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Abstract

A number of scholars have examined the experiences of students engaging in different types of work-based learning. In this paper, the authors examine the work-based learning experiences of 621 students at a public research university. Specific attention is given to the way that cybersecurity, computing, and STEM students describe their internship experience in comparison to other types of students. Preliminary findings show that less than half of STEM and computing students reported doing an internship or other form of work-based learning. Differences exist among STEM and non-STEM interns regarding the reasons they engaged in work-based learning. Patterns are discussed within the structural and disciplinary boundaries of different disciplines. Attention is also given to the way that different demographic characteristics impact the internship experiences of computing majors. Implications for improving the internship experience of cybersecurity students are identified.