

What is Cooperative Education?

Cooperative Education is an academic program designed to give qualified students an opportunity to combine theory learned in the classroom with on-the-job, career-related work experience. The work experience is an integral part of a student's educational process. Through the interaction of work and study, students enhance their academic knowledge, personal development, and professional preparation. Cooperative Education is not work or just having a job, however, it is learning while in a work experience setting with a trainer/supervisor.



For more information contact:
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Co-op: A three-way Partnership

Benefits to the Student:

- Offers hands-on work experience
- Clarifies a career interest/goal
- Earns academic credit
- Increases marketability upon graduation
- Adds relevance to classroom instruction
- Enhances resume, reference, and work experience

Benefits to the Employer:

- Facilitates recruitment and training with regularly available students
- Provides an excellent source of temporary and potential permanent employees
- Offers an opportunity to pre-train employees in company policies and practices
- Creates closer ties between the business world and the education community
- Provides cost effective long-term recruitment
- Increases staff diversity

Benefits to the Community College:

- Provides an enriched learning experience that cannot be duplicated on campus
- Expands laboratory experiences
- Creates closer ties between the business world and the education community
- Increases students satisfaction, thereby increasing retention in the college program
- Provides for a wider college-community interchange and support
- Assists in providing a more relevant and quality education to the students

“The fundamental reason for the success of Co-op is clear. Everyone wins – student, employer, and college benefit from Cooperative Education.”

Credit is granted for the learning that occurs as a result of working.

Cooperative Education

Employer Responsibilities:

- Provide meaningful, challenging work for students that is closely related to their program of study.
- Designate a supervisor who will work with the student in achieving the student's learning objectives.
- Provide a safe and appropriate environment.
- Provide the student an opportunity to complete a minimum of 160 hours of work during the assigned semester.
- Evaluate the student's performance.
- Allow an on-site visit from a CCCC faculty member.



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