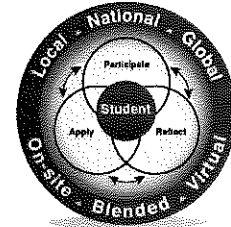


Cooperative Education

Cooperative Education provides secondary school students with a wide range of rigorous learning opportunities connected to communities outside the school. It immerses students in a learning experience where they are active participants where they reflect on the experience in order to derive meaning from it, and where they apply their learning to influence their decisions and actions in various aspects of their lives. Participation in Cooperative Education can lead to transformational change, engaging students in unique experiences that they will remember throughout their lives.



Source: Adapted from D.A. Kolb, *Experiential Learning: Experience as the source of Learning and Development* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1984)

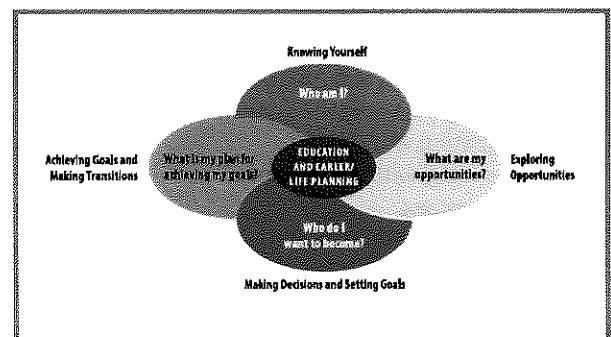
How Cooperative Education Works:

A company or an organization agrees to provide a learning experience (placement) for a student and designates an employee to supervise the learning. A scheduled interview determines the student's acceptance. Work schedules vary based on the student's timetable: half, full, consecutive, alternate days, evening or summer.

Learning opportunities at the placement are linked with a student's academic studies, education plan, personal goals and abilities through a Student Cooperative Education Learning Plan co-developed by the student, teacher and supervisor. The teacher monitors regularly to support student learning and assesses student progress. The supervisor provides input necessary to determine student achievement. Students are given relevant course assignments which encourage reflection and connection to every day life. Credits are awarded upon successful completion of program expectations.

Who Takes Cooperative Education?

Cooperative Education students are typically in the senior grades, and each student will have a post-secondary pathway: college, apprenticeship, university, work, community living and may be studying in any subject area. Cooperative Education is also available for students with special needs, as well as younger students if they are deemed ready for the program.



Learning and Training

Every Co-op student must develop a Learning Plan with the collaboration and support of the Co-op teacher and the placement supervisor. In developing their Learning Plan, students create and reflect on their learning goals and plan how they will achieve the goals. The Learning Plan helps students determine the types of learning opportunities (i.e., tasks, activities) in which they will participate, where those opportunities will occur, the timelines within which the experience will take place, the resources that will be required, and the nature and extent of support and feedback the students will need. The development of the Learning Plan is a dynamic process requiring ongoing review and revision throughout the duration of the Cooperative Education experience.

Benefits of Cooperative Education

For Students:

- Exploring career choices
- Increasing awareness of workplace demands and needs
- Developing transferable skills and global competencies
- Applying classroom theory to workplace experience
- Earning credits for secondary school diploma
- Building a network for future employment
- Providing a smoother school-to-work transition
- Enhancing acceptance possibilities to post-secondary or training programs
- Earning up to two compulsory credits towards their OSSD

For Supervisors:

- Providing students with rich, relevant community experiences
- Developing supervisory skills in employees
- Contributing to career education
- Increasing student awareness of community values and interests
- Promoting awareness of job opportunities
- Sharing expertise, knowledge, skills and materials
- Mentoring and inspiring students as they develop their career/life goals
- Taking pride in the act of contributing to students' education, and to Ontario's future workforce

Responsibilities

of Teacher:

- Selecting and preparing student for Co-op placement
- Matching student with appropriate placement by interests/capabilities
- Completing Placement Assessment
- Supporting supervisor and student throughout the program
- Co-developing and revising the Learning Plan with the student
- Integrating workplace experience with curriculum expectations
- Monitoring student learning, safety and well-being
- Evaluating student performance
- Assigning final mark

of Student:

- Working safely and diligently
- Achieving maximum learning opportunities
- Attending workplace as agreed
- Reflecting on the learning experience
- Applying the learning to influence their decisions and actions
- Completing assignments required by teacher and supervisor
- Developing a Learning Plan based on personal goals for learning throughout the Cooperative Education course
- Following rules of the workplace and school board

of Supervisor:

- Interviewing and accepting appropriate student(s)
- Providing relevant work experience in a safe learning environment free from discrimination and harassment
- Ensuring Health and Safety training and Mental Health Awareness
- Working with the student to help develop the Learning Plan
- Giving clear instructions and supervising learning experiences
- Sharing expertise with student
- Assisting in performance assessment

For more information about the Cooperative Education program, its procedures and regulations, please speak to the Cooperative Education teacher at your home school.

