COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (Co-op)

Cooperative Education is an educational program involving the College and the employers in the community. The purpose is to provide students with the opportunity for combining in-school academic and vocational instruction with entry-level employment in a related occupational field. The student’s total experience is planned, coordinated, and supervised by the College and the employer.

On-the-job career training and College attendance may occur on alternate half-days, full days, weeks, semesters, or other periods of time, depending on the occupation and the desired learning experience. Cooperative Education improves the educational program by taking advantage of the available programs that meet community, industrial and student needs. Because of the industrial contact, faculty members keep up-to-date in their area of specialization to ensure the transmission of current ideas. Therefore, the major product, the students themselves, possess current knowledge, and will be up-to-date on the latest technological advances. The expertise of the skilled craftsmen, who are the job supervisors, provides an invaluable learning source.

Cooperative Education develops total community support. Therefore industry, business, and citizens are involved with the College in producing employees that are better able to meet community needs.

This opportunity to “earn and learn” helps the student gain a better understanding of the world of work, industrial organizations and operations, economics, and labor-management relations. It further helps the student to develop maturity, responsibility, and independence towards one’s work, as well as helping to develop the art of human relations in the work setting.

Eligibility: A student must have permission of the program instructor.

Evaluation: The student’s grade is based on the co-op instructor and employer’s evaluation of the student’s performance based upon objectives stated in the training agreement.

Credits: Students receive one hour credit for every 10 hours worked per week. Co-op credits may replace electives or internships in the student’s major with permission from the co-op instructor.

HISTORY NOTE: Effective October 12, 1988
Revised October, 2001