

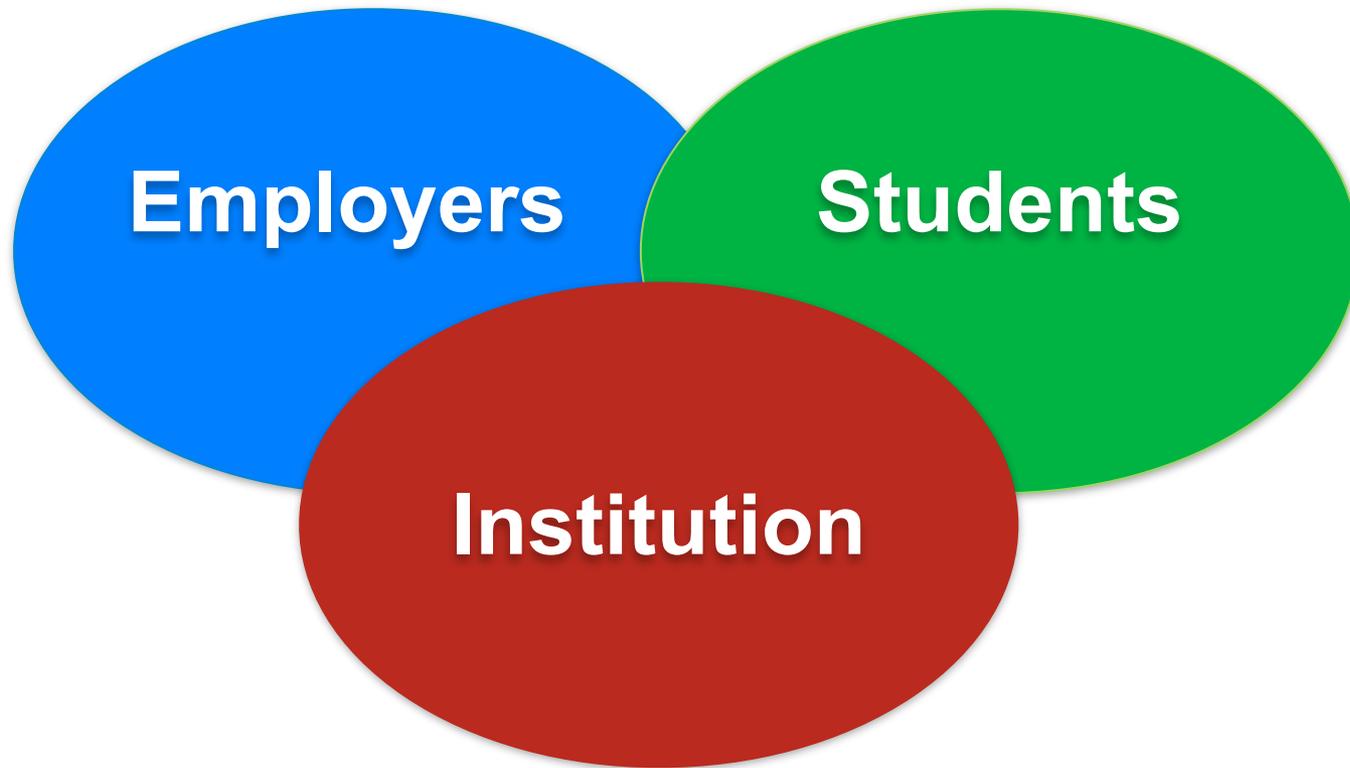
Enriching Undergraduate Learning through Co-operative Education

WATERLOO
MATHEMATICS

www.math.uwaterloo.ca

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Co-op: Three-way Partnership



Role of Partners

Institutions

- Ensure sufficient and appropriate “learning” opportunities available
- Monitor student progress

Employers

- Pay commensurate salaries
- Supervise, mentor and evaluate students

Students

- Engage in process to obtain productive, paid work

What distinguishes co-op?



- Alternating sequence
- Chance to go through the cycle of **learning** and **applying** many times

What distinguishes co-op?



□ Transferable experiences

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What distinguishes co-op?



- Normal number of **study** terms
- 16-24 months of paid **work** experience
- Graduate in $4\frac{2}{3}$ years

What distinguishes co-op?



- Multiple opportunities with different employers, industries, sectors
- Increasing level of expertise
- Varying degree of job responsibility

How does co-op work?

Week of Term	Activities
1 - 2	Return to campus interviews; work report submissions; finalize students returning/ employment opportunities
3 - 4	Job postings for main match
4 - 7	Employer interviews
8	Match occurs; students & employers consolidate options
9 - 14	Second round: twice weekly posting/interview/ranking
15 - 17	Unemployed students distributes among field coordinators Field coordinators explore one-on-one matches
1 st month of work	Employment matches continue on individual basis

Students: Challenges

- Learning how to play the co-op game
- Balancing academic and co-op work load
- Securing employment in early years
- Higher tuition fees
- Transitioning every 4 months

Employer: Experiences

- + Accessing bright, young student minds with new ideas, fresh perspectives/enthusiasm
 - + Mentoring future employees/colleagues
 - + Reducing future recruiting costs and risks
 - + Creating bridges with academic institutions
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- Recruiting/administrative costs
 - Attracting senior students

Institution: Improved Quality

- + Well-motivated, superior applicants
- + Enhanced visibility/reputation
- + Enriched campus community
- + Improved curriculum/relevance
- + Well-qualified prepared graduates
- + Improved real-world connections

Institution: Challenges

- Balancing patterns of supply and demand
- Securing sufficient/relevant employment
- Optimizing employer/student matches
- Increased teaching costs

Student: Quote

“ I was part of the iPhone display team. I wasn't there to observe. I had real responsibilities and was an integral part of the team—and I got a job offer for when I graduate!”

Taif, 4th year CS

Student: Quote

“ Co-op gave me the opportunity to develop a strategy for creating new challenges for each new work term. I progressed from quality control to fixing bugs to programming. Next term I'm excited about moving up to a job as a program manager.”

Jason, 3rd year

Student: Quote

“ Co-op is one of the reasons I came to Waterloo. Back home you don't work until you've finished school, and then you take an entry-level job because no one has work experience. I hope my work terms will give me an edge, and I will stand out from the others because I've had jobs.”

Hayden, International Student

Institution: Quote

“ I tell the students to look at co-op as a four-month job interview. For the employer it’s a chance to try before you buy.”

Peggy Jarvie, Director,
Co-operative Education
& Career Services

Employer: Quote

“ The co-op students aren't green. They know the professional jargon and they know what they're doing.”

John, Employer Recruiter

Resources

- World wide: World Association for Co-operative Education, Inc. (WACE) <http://www.waceinc.org/>
- USA: Co-operative Education Association (CEIA) <http://www.ceiainc.org/home.asp>
- Canada: Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE) <http://www.cafce.ca/>

Resources

- Texas A&M <http://careercenter.tamu.edu/guides/coop/>
- Northeastern University: <http://www.northeastern.edu/experiential-learning/coop/>
- University of Waterloo
<http://www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/>

Questions?

Contact Information

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