

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Credit Value Two Credit (Half Day at placement) or Four Credit (Full Day at placement)

Cooperative Education is a successful learning model that combines classroom learning with practical work experience. Cooperative Education allows the student to explore and clarify their career interests before selecting a post-secondary destination. Experiential learning can assist students in developing the employability skills that are essential in today's workplace.

The student selection process for the Cooperative Education program involves:

- submission of an application form
- an interview with the Cooperative Education teacher
- review of academic history and attendance
- teacher recommendations

The classroom learning component of the Cooperative Education program consists of Preplacement and Integration sessions.

Preplacement Sessions

The semester begins with the student attending class to prepare for his/her placement. Students study topics such as self-assessment, resume writing, interview skills, health and safety, communication, human rights, ethics and confidentiality and labour relations. During this time, students will attend an interview with their employer.

Integration Sessions

Students begin their placement during the third week of the semester and spend the majority of the semester working at their placement. Students must return for several in-school days throughout the semester. This Integration component provides the student with the opportunity to reflect upon and examine his/her experiences in the workplace, to form concepts about these experiences and to return to the workplace and apply these concepts.

Students can earn **two or four** credits towards their high school diploma upon successful completion of the program. In the two-credit option students attend school for two periods and spend three hours at their placement. In the four-credit option, students work at the placement for the full day to acquire a minimum of 440 hours of work experience.

Students are not paid during hours at the placement. Transportation is the responsibility of the student.

The **benefits** of Cooperative Education for the student include:

- the opportunity for students to investigate specific careers and the route they must follow to enter these careers
- the opportunity to develop a broad range of skills, attitudes and interpersonal relations for work and other life roles
- increased self-confidence and motivation

Special Programs in Cooperative Education

Apprenticeship Training

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and Construction Co-op Program

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program provides an opportunity for students to complete their high school diploma while receiving apprenticeship training and earning hours toward their apprenticeship in a skilled trade. Students have the opportunity to earn up to six credits toward their high school diploma. This program is available in areas such as Carpentry, Motor Vehicle Service and Repair, Tool and Die, Manufacturing, Chef Training, Hairstyling and Early Childhood Education.

In the Construction Co-op program students can earn four credits as they assist in the building of new homes at a residential construction site in Durham Region. Students gain experience in a variety of trades. Trades involved in the program include framing, plumbing, electrical, brick laying, insulation/drywall, carpentry and general labour. The students are supervised at all times by an on-site teacher.

Students interested in these programs apply to the Cooperative Education program and are interviewed and selected by the Coordinator of each program.

Additional information on this program and apprenticeship pathways is available in the appendix of this course calendar.

Canadian Forces Reserves Cooperative Education Program

Students interested in exploring careers in law enforcement, security or military service can apply for a 4 credit cooperative education course in this unique program with the Ontario Regiment (R.C.A.C.) in Oshawa. The program will be offered in semester one only in 2007-2008 (pending funding approval in April 2007). The course includes basic military training, first-aid, orienteering, field craft, career awareness, communication, self defense and training in the operation of military equipment used by an Armoured Corps. Responsibility, discipline, leadership and team work are concepts mastered by graduates of this course. Students become full time employed members of the Canadian Forces Reserves for the duration of this program and must be prepared to commit fully to the demands of military training.