

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
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DEFINITION:

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION is a structured educational strategy integrating classroom studies with learning through productive work experiences in a field related to a student's academic or career goals. The word "cooperative" is used to mean a cooperative relationship among students, employers and educational institutions. The integrating of academic experience with meaningful work experience is obtained through alternating or parallel co-oping in a formalized sequence with study leading to degree completion of an academic program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CO-OP APPLICANTS:

Students must have a 2.5/4.0 GPA to make application for co-op assignment. A higher GPA may be required if the employer chooses. The student must have an advisor's recommendation. Usually, students are Junior standing at the beginning of a coop experience. A minimum of two semesters is required in a coop assignment.

The student must register for co-op each semester: Co-op 095. Transcript recognition of P (pass) or F (fail) grade is earned each co-op term. No academic credit hours or quality point are earned.

There is no commitment on the part of the co-op employer to offer permanent employment to the student. It is an employer's choice to employ a co-op student upon graduation.

Co-op is either alternating or parallel.

KINDS OF PROGRAMS:

PARALLEL: This school/work program allows students to work either part-time or full-time while continuing their academic work. The parallel program offers the following advantages:

- The student works only 10-20 hours a week allowing him/her to continue with his/her studies.
- The student does not have to move from job to school each term.
- The student has the opportunity to schedule courses and work in the regular four-year time frame.

ALTERNATING: In this program a student attends school full-time for the first year. As a sophomore, junior, or senior, the student begins to alternate periods of full-time school and full-time work. The alternating program offers the following advantages:

- It allows students to go where the jobs are without regard for location.
- Students are able to devote full time to study while in school.
- As a full-time employee, the student has the opportunity to experience a more normal working situation.