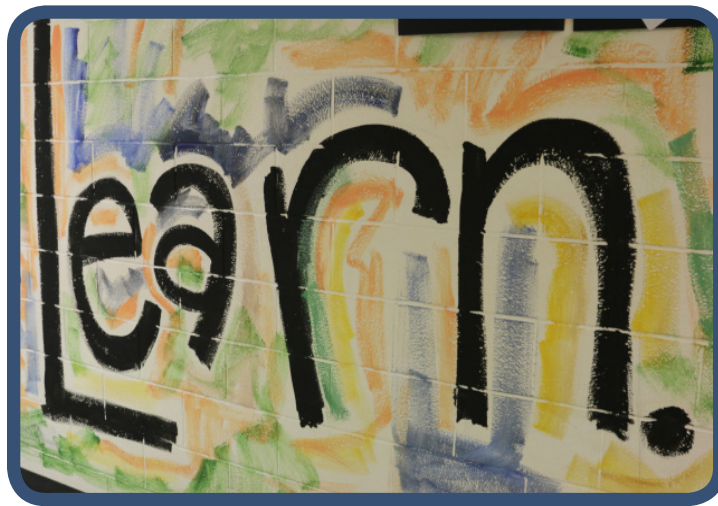


Cooperative Education

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Cooperative Education (Co-op) gives students opportunities to get their feet on the ground with local businesses. Under the guidance of their Program Instructors and the Cooperative Education Coordinator, students are able to develop their professional skills in a supervised, planned environment. Students not only gain access to job specific training and equipment, but they also have the opportunity to build contacts with area business leaders.

When Co-ops are part of a student's educational path, they benefit from a head start in career development and real-world applications of their academic skills. Co-op students can earn school-release time and high school credits for their placements, as well as documentation that he or she is responsible enough to maintain positive work relationships, are dependable, and focused when it comes to their future. College representatives and employers alike report looking for these very qualities in students.



Any student, with the recommendation of his or her Program Instructor, may apply for one or more of the following Co-op experiences:

- Job Shadows provide short-term experiences that enable students to observe different fields and work environments.
- Career Work Experiences are short-term, unpaid opportunities for students to explore their career interests.
- Cooperative Technical Education provides long-term paid positions for students. Many continue with their local area employer for summer jobs and post-graduation employment.
- Student Apprenticeships are long-term salaried positions with employer directed on-the-job training. Student Apprenticeships are certified by the VT Department of Education and sponsored by the employer.