

Cooperative Education

Cooperative Education, or Co-op, is a unique plan of education which integrates classroom study with planned and supervised work experience. This educational pattern allows students to acquire practical skills as well as to be exposed to the reality of the world of work beyond the school campus. These experiences enhance the self-awareness and potential direction of the students involved.

One of the great strengths of Cooperative Education is its flexibility. The basic concept of integrating work experience in an educational curriculum can be applied in many different ways.

The Northwest Technical Center's Cooperative Education Program has three main components:

Job Shadows	Usually a onetime observation of various occupations
Career Work Experience (CWE)	Program specific work experiences, usually during NWTC class time
Cooperative Technical Education (CTE)	Paid, supervised work, with training plan in program specific employment, available to students who have already completed program curriculum

Cooperative Education blends the philosophy of the hiring institution with the needs of the students. It is dependent upon the cooperation between educational institutions and employers to form a total educational program. The interrelated experience and study components are carefully planned and supervised to produce optimum educational results. Through a balanced educational method which combines classroom theory with career-related work experience, Cooperative Education offers numerous advantages to the student and to employers.

It is the goal of Cooperative Education to prepare every student for entry level employment and/or post-secondary training or education.

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