

What is a CO-OP?



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Relevant experience in your field is one of the most important factors employers consider when making hiring decisions. By participating in internships, co-ops, externships and field placements, collectively referred to as experiential learning, you not only better your understanding of your future profession, but also increase your value to potential employers. SVSU and Career Services has an extensive network of organizational partners who seek students for co-ops and internships. These positions are often paid.

Since these organizations want to recruit students with a professional mindset, only students who have been accepted into the SVSU Cooperative Education/Internship program are permitted to apply through the Cardinal Career Network. The process, as described below, is designed to teach students how to be active job-seekers and best represent their skills and abilities to potential employers.

A co-op is a paid, on-going relationship between the employer, student, and university. Students in the program not only gain work-world experience but are expected to actively participate in key projects. The co-op program is open to all undergraduate students currently enrolled at SVSU. International students are required to provide proper work authorization to work off-campus. Because of the high expectations, the co-op program has several requirements for participation.

CO-OP PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

1. Must have completed a minimum of 24 college level credit hours from SVSU or another accredited college or university.*
2. Must have and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
3. Must successfully complete a minimum 24 credit hours per school year (school year is counted in a combined total of credits earned from Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer semesters).
4. Must have at least one year of coursework remaining until graduation
5. Must fulfil any additional requirements set forth by the employer

*Exception: Freshmen whose high school co-op employer has requested the student to continue the co-op employment at SVSU are exempt from this requirement.

