Cooperative Education (Co-op) Program
Frequently Asked Questions for Students

What are the eligibility requirements for participating in the Co-op program (CWE 1001, 2001, 3001, 4001, 5000)?
Students must be full time and degree seeking, maintain a 2.5 undergraduate GPA or a 3.0 graduate GPA, have completed at least 24 semester hours at Florida Tech, or one semester at Florida Tech if a transfer student (if a graduate student, have completed one full time semester at Florida Tech). International students must be enrolled in a program of study and must have maintained lawful F1 or J1 student status for two consecutive semesters, and have completed a Curricular Practical Training (CPT) workshop offered by the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

What are the requirements for an undergraduate technical Co-op (CWE 3003)?
In addition to the core requirements for all Co-ops listed above, undergraduates who wish to receive technical elective credits must be working at least 35 hours per week and have completed a minimum prerequisite of CWE 1001.

Do I have to enroll in a Co-op course if I am an international student?
Co-op is one of three options for international students to obtain Curricular Practical Training (CPT): Co-op, thesis/dissertation, or a required internship for their major. CPT may be authorized by the institution (NOT by USCIS) for F-1 students participating in curricular-related employment such as Cooperative Education (Co-op). The work experience used to apply for Co-op must be deemed an integral part of an established curriculum in the student’s course of study. International students should discuss their options with their academic advisors and International Student and Scholar Services.

Can I enroll in a co-op course if I am an online, extended studies, or continuing education student?
No. Co-op is only available to students attending the main Florida Tech campus. As of Summer 2020, main campus students who opt for virtual learning courses are still eligible for Co-op.

I am a main campus student, but my work experience is remote. Can this apply to Co-op?
Yes. As long the work experience is deemed relative to your major by your academic advisor.

Will I get credit for co-op?
Undergraduates receive free elective credit based on their hours:
- 500+ hours per semester = 3 credits
- 200-499 hours per semester = 2 credits
- Less than 200 hours per semester = 1 credit

Graduate students receive 0 credit for Co-op.

What is the difference between a co-op and an internship?
Academic credits are not awarded for an internship, only for a Co-op. Internships do not require academic assignments, which Co-ops do require.
Do I have to register for Co-op if I get an internship/work experience?
No. Though we hope all students choose to apply their work experience to gaining Co-op credit, it is optional.

How do I get a work experience I can use to register for Co-op?
It’s up to the student to obtain their own internship or work experience. Florida Tech’s Career Services offers several one-on-one appointment types available to students, including resume help and job-search assistance.

How is Co-op graded? What assignments are required?
A midterm check-in survey and self-reflection, an employer evaluation of the student’s performance, and a final report. These assignments are explained on the syllabus and will be reviewed by the Co-op advisor. A final grade of Pass/Fail will be assigned.

Can I get academic credit for jobs I’ve held in the past?
No, academic credit is not awarded retroactively for co-op. Credit is also not awarded for hours the student has worked prior to registering for co-op.

Can I register for Co-op myself online?
No, a representative from Career Services will facilitate your Co-op registration. International students will have to complete additional paperwork provided by International Student and Scholar Services.

Am I considered a full-time student if I do a Co-op?
Undergraduate students who enroll in a full time (3 credits) Co-op are considered full time students in the Fall and Spring semesters. This does not apply to Summer semesters or to graduate students.

How much does Co-op cost?
There is a $100 registration fee for the Co-op course, regardless of the semester or credits awarded. There is no tuition for co-op.

Why should I participate in the co-op program?
In addition to gaining academic credit towards fulfilling your degree, you will put classroom knowledge to use in real-world scenarios. You will gain insight into your professional strengths, making you better able to assess and pursue your career goals. You will have the opportunity to build valuable workplace experience, hone transferable professional skills, and expand your professional network with important industry leaders.

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