



ACADIA

UNIVERSITY

Business Administration

Co-operative Education
CO-OP
AT ACADIA

About the program

Co-operative Education is an academic program that integrates study with paid, discipline-related work experience. Co-op students complete a minimum of three 4-month work terms or a 12 to 16-month internship to graduate with the prestigious 'Co-op Option' on their degree. Typically students enroll in Co-op when they are beginning their second year of study. All Co-op students attend mandatory workshops and receive one-on-one coaching in job preparation skills including resume and cover letter writing, interview preparation, and workplace professionalism.

Why Co-op?

In the **Business Administration** field, having work experience upon graduation provides a distinct advantage. Applying critical thinking and other skills to real world business challenges gives the hands-on experience not found in a classroom. Co-op has helped many students choose which field they are most interested in by exposing them to different workplaces. Employers hire co-op students to get special projects done or to cover seasonal demands and peak periods. In addition, Co-op is often used as a recruitment tool to evaluate students for potential full-time hire.

Sample Work-Study Schedule

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study	Study	Free
Year 2	Study (PD sessions)	Study (PD sessions)	Work term 1
Year 3	Study	Work term 2	Work term 3
Year 4	Study	Study	Free or work term 4
Year 5	Final study term		

"I joined the co-op program because I heard it would help me land a job after graduation and was a great way to help pay my tuition; I now know the co-op experience goes far beyond this. I had the opportunity to work with an expert through several drafts of my resume and cover letters to perfect them, I was coached through the interview process, and I eventually gained a year of employment ideal for my career path. During that employment I built professional networks, received exposure to computer programs used in my field, and I was finally able to apply what I was learning in the classroom to real world situations. Since completing the co-op program, I am absolutely confident I will secure a great job in my field upon graduation because I now have knowledge and experience that employers are looking for and I am well prepared to convey those strengths to recruiters." – Jesse Peterson, BBA (Co-op Option)

Fast facts

Average pay: \$15.00/hour

Recent employers: Suncor, Syncrude, Grant Thornton, Bell Aliant, Scotiabank, J.D. Irving Ltd.

Did you know?

In the 2013 Globe & Mail Canadian University Report, Acadia's Co-op program was ranked by students #1 in Atlantic Canada overall and #1 in the country for our size.

Contact Us

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