

## The PEI High School Cooperative Education Program

**Cooperative Education** is an experiential method of learning that formally integrates classroom studies with learning through productive work experiences in a field related to a student's academic or career goals. It provides progressive experiences in integrating theory and practice. The cooperative education course is a partnership among students, schools, and the community, with specified responsibilities for each. This course consists of a classroom component and a placement component. The two credit course is 220 hours in duration (comprised of 40 hours in the classroom and 180 hours at the work site). Prior to the placement, all students must demonstrate an understanding of the pre-placement orientation expectations and participate in the development and implementation of their personalized placement learning plans. These plans outline the specific goals the students, teachers, and employers have regarding opportunities to apply and extend knowledge and practice and refine skills to

demonstrate student achievement of placement expectations that reflect current workplace practices and standards.

For their educational, social, and career success in the twenty-first century, students will require effective work habits and the ability to make sound decisions, solve problems, plan effectively, work independently, communicate well, research, evaluate themselves realistically, and explore new educational and career opportunities. A carefully planned experiential career education course with an emphasis on community-based learning will help students acquire these skills.

Cooperative Education is offered in most Island high schools for two credits during either the fall (September to January) or spring (February to June) semesters. Cooperative Education courses are offered for one or two credits during the summer months. Summer cooperative education has been featured in the following articles:

(1) *Cooperative Education with a summer flavour,*

[http://www.employmentjourney.com/archives/EJAug09\\_1.pdf](http://www.employmentjourney.com/archives/EJAug09_1.pdf)

(2) *Summer Co-op Education Program Growing in Popularity,*

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/index.php3?number=news&newsnumber=7261&dept=&lang=E>

### Roles for the Organizations Hosting Placements

The success of high school cooperative education programs depend on matching students' interests with companies and employees who are committed to the undertaking.

- Students will be provided with workplace health and safety training prior to the placement.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation.
- Before the placement begins, a learning plan will be developed by the student and teacher, and then reviewed by the host organization.
- A workplace assessment will be conducted at the work site to promote healthy working environments for student and company.
- There is very little paperwork involved for organizations hosting placements.
- There are no financial obligations to the host organization.

For more information about the Cooperative Education Program, please contact:

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