

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Co-op Program offers all qualified students majoring in Crop Protection an opportunity to enhance their academic preparation, acquire valuable work experience, and explore career options. Through this program, students alternate terms of full-time study with term of full-time paid employment. The work experiences are supervised jointly by a mentor in the cooperating institution (private business or government agency) and a Faculty member. A fundamental purpose of cooperative education is to give students the opportunity to learn under real-world conditions.

Student eligibility

To be eligible for the Coop-program, students must meet the following minimum requirements.

- 2.5 GPA
- completed 2 years of study
- certain courses are pre-requisites by some employers

Employment participation

The coop organization commits, through a written agreement, to ensure student workplace learning and to evaluate the student's work experience. While in coop work experience periods, students are considered as actual employees of the hiring organization.

These include:

- student is considered an employee of the hiring organization and subject to policies and laws that relate to other employees.
- student receives compensation in the form of wages for work performed.
- student is under the supervision of the employer and performs work assigned by it.

Hiring decisions are made by employers.

The Plan

- The work periods are integrated with the curriculum, do not occur previous to the initial school term or after the final school term has been completed.
- The student must be registered in the cooperative education course assigned and will receive six (6) credit hours in free electives for a minimum of two (2) work experiences, one of which must take place during a regular semester.

