



Departmental Benefits

- ◆ Co-op/Applied Learning assessment instruments can be very valuable to the faculty by providing input from an outside entity. Assessment instruments are key factors in evaluating student learning while participating in a Work Integrated Learning Program.
 - Employer Appraisal
 - Student Performance Skills Assessment
- ◆ These assessment instruments provided data for EKU's QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan)
- ◆ The assessment data from our employers, and students supplies departments with valid data to assist with curriculum changes.
- ◆ In addition, data is collected that can assist in validating courses and programs.
- ◆ Assessment data is available to document both employer and students feedback for accreditation purposes.

Classroom Benefits

- ◆ Co-op/Applied Learning Students provide a rich resource to your classroom
 - Expand your classroom
 - Provide feedback from another prospective
 - Provide new, state of the art technology and updated data into your classrooms
- ◆ Link in keeping current with the world of work (industries, governments and organizations, etc.)
- ◆ Students should be more interested in learning
- ◆ Encourage non-co-op students to think critically and engage in the learning process
- ◆ Assist in validating your course
- ◆ Promote students to be more interactive

Student Benefits

- ◆ Provides a more comprehensive education
 - Allows students to test classroom learning in the laboratory of the real world
 - Develops maturity and self-confidence
 - Challenges students to be better learners
 - Challenges their quest for knowledge
 - Enhances students critical thinking and problem solving skills

For More Information



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◆ Faculty Involvement
in Making the
Connection between the
Classroom and the
Work Environment



What is Cooperative Education?

- ◆ Co-op is defined as a method of study that incorporates career-related work experience into the curriculum.
- ◆ Learning to apply theory to the world of work produces a combination of applied knowledge and experience essential to the educational process.
- ◆ EKU's first student started in 1975 in the field of Technology.
- ◆ Academic Course – 1-16 hours of credit (8 per semester)
- ◆ Both Co-op and Applied Learning are a part of the Co-op Program.

What is Co-op?

- ◆ Co-op 349a-n or 839a-f
- ◆ Alternating semesters—Full-time 2 or more semesters.
- ◆ Parallel semesters—Three (3) or more paid work experiences totaling 1250 work hours.
- ◆ Must co-op in the Fall or Spring semester in addition to the summer semester
- ◆ If an Applied Learning student decides to continue working additional semesters, they can be placed in 349b the next semester as long as the first experience meets the requirements for Cooperative Education.
- ◆ Students receive a certificate of completion.

What is Applied Learning?

- ◆ Applied Learning 349 or 839
- ◆ One semester paid experiences
- ◆ Non-Paid experiences.
- ◆ Summers only
- ◆ If student is not sure they will work additional semesters
- ◆ An assignment that does not meet the Cooperative Education multiple term requirements.
- ◆ Students participating in the Applied Learning Program must meet the same standard of the Co-op Program.

Why Faculty Involvement is Essential to Cooperative Education?

- ◆ In order that students can apply the theory learned in the classroom to the practical experience learned on the job, it is essential for faculty to assist the students in making the connection. This helps the students close the loop.
- ◆ 35 Co-op Faculty Coordinators

The Role Faculty Can Play

- ◆ Encourage students to participate in the Co-op Program
- ◆ Identify and challenge your Co-op/Applied Learning students in your classroom setting.
- ◆ Ask the students if they have experienced any of the subject material taught in your classroom on their work assignments and what was the outcome.
- ◆ Challenge them to enhance their learning. Encourage them to research a new technique/idea on the job and share the information with the class.
- ◆ Discuss the project in your classroom in an open discussion to assist students in their problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- ◆ Require these students to present oral presentations about their Co-op/Applied Learning projects or experiences and relate it to your subject area (your classroom training).