**WHAT IS A CO-OP?**

The mission of the CSM cooperative education program is to provide an undergraduate academic program that combines degree-related work and study. It requires you to work in a job which is associated with your academic major, and to set some pre-planned educational objectives for the work period.

At the end of the work period, when you return to school, you will:

- Enroll in the Co-Op “340” class that is specific for your major, e.g. MN340.
- Review your learning objectives set prior to beginning your Co-Op and compare your actual experiences.
- Write a Co-Op report that is graded by the Faculty Co-Op Advisor in your department.
- Receive a Co-Op grade based on the supervisor’s evaluation from your employer and your report.
- Earn up to 3 hours of credit for this Co-Op experience and, in some departments, perhaps substitute this credit for a free elective.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CO-OP PROGRAM?**

There are two basic requirements to apply for Co-Op:

- You must complete 3 semesters at CSM (2 for a transfer student) before going on Co-Op.
- Students must also have a 2.0 grade point average and be in good academic and disciplinary standing.

**ARE CO-OP STUDENTS PAID?**

Yes, the employer pays the Co-Op student a salary which is appropriate for the work. Co-Op salaries are at least in-line with traditional summer intern position salaries, and are often higher than intern positions.

**WHEN DO STUDENTS WORK?**

Most Co-Op terms extend from May to December or from January to August. Occasionally a Co-Op term does not include the summer. There are three basic work plans:

- **Traditional Alternating**: Students alternate semesters of work and school year-round until graduation. Many companies prefer this schedule.
- **One Term**: A one-time, 6-8 month long work experience with no other commitment to a later experience.
- **Parallel**: Students work full-time during the summer and part-time for two consecutive semesters (20 or more hours per week).

**WHY SHOULD I DO A CO-OP?**

Completing a Co-Op has many benefits!

- An opportunity to apply and integrate the theories and knowledge gained in the classroom to the “real world,” working with professionals in your field of study using state of the art technology.
- A way to increase your prospects for after-graduation employment, including the possibility of obtaining a job offer faster, and even a higher starting salary.
- Through this experience, students often gain a clearer sense of their academic major and career goals.
- The work experience is paid, which helps cover a portion of your college expenses. Some employers count Co-Op work experience for years of experience towards benefits and/or promotional requirements.
CONTACT US

Call 303-273-3235 or stop by our office, located just past the Registrar’s Office on the garden level of the Student Center.

• Meet our dedicated staff.
• Have your resume critiqued.
• Learn how to write a great cover letter.
• Find out how to conduct a job search for summer, co-op and entry-level full-time jobs.

COMPANIES THAT RECRUIT FOR CO-OP AT CSM

• North Star Steel
• Central Federal Lands Highway Division
• Dow Chemical
• Peabody Energy
• BP
• Kennecott Energy
• Electronic Arts
• EPA
• Micron Technology
• NASA
• Nucor Steel
• Storage Tech
• Merrick & Co.
• Avaya
• Starsys Research
• URS
• Caterpillar
• Granite Construction
• Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
• Parsons
• American Airlines
• INTEL
• Gallo Winery
• Vantage Energy
• FMC Alkali Chemical
• Schlumberger
• Vecellio
• Lafarge NA
• Southern Datastream
• Kiewit
• Helix Energy Solutions Group
• Atkinson Construction
• Flatirons Construction
• General Electric

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