

# What is co-operative education?

Cooperative education—"co-op" for short—blends academic coursework with on-the-job experiences. Students alternate periods of academic study with workplace opportunities to enrich their learning and career preparation.

# What is Penn State Schuylkill Co-Op?

Penn State Schuylkill Co-Op is an elective, four-year undergraduate program that will connect your classroom learning with meaningful, workplace experiences. Combine that with co-op's career and soft skills training, and you'll graduate with both a diploma and a résumé—ready to contribute in the workplace from day one, and prepared for a lifetime of success.

# How does co-op benefit students?

- Students benefit through better academic performance coupled with relevant work experience that helps them clarify goals and learn skills, earn money to help pay for college, and have greater employment prospects upon graduation.
- While many internships are paid, unpaid experiences with non-profits, government agencies, and similar organizations may better fit some students' needs. In these cases, students may qualify for campusspecific internship scholarships.
- Many co-op students are offered full-time jobs by employers with which they had co-op experiences.

## The Co-Op Experience

#### **Subject Mastery**

Dive into your academic coursework, with Penn State's top-notch faculty.

#### **Career Skill Building**

Learn career-building skills—networking, interviewing, résumé writing—with the Career Services team.

## **Work Experiences**

Find internship and co-op experiences that will help you be ready to succeed in the workplace.

#### **Soft Skill Development**

Practice soft skills—problem solving, communication, leadership—that will make you an in-demand employee, no matter your career choice.



In my first summer internship, I focused on internal communication and learned technical skills and other day-to-day aspects of running a business. It will definitely benefit me in future jobs!

**Dominque Hughes, '23 Corporate Communication** 



In my co-op classes I learned to build my résumé, write a cover letter, how to dress for work, and more. And my first internship with Sizigi will help me in the future because it was my first experience in a professional environment. I will remember the tips I received at Sizigi for the rest of my life.

Lucas Centola E Silva, '24 **Business** 



My co-op courses taught me the skills (interview skills, soft skills, resume assistance) that I needed to get my first internship. I feel more confident knowing that I have all the resources that I need to push myself forward, but still have a support system to go to for help or feedback.

Poetic Session, '24 **Psychology** 



Your four-year

co-op might

look like this:

YEAR 1 SUMMER 1

Co-op begins with foundational coursework. and career skill development. You'll also begin planning your first summer internship.

Complete a threemonth, full-time internship.



Begin major-specific coursework, begin soft skill development, interview for your second summer internship.

**SUMMER 2** Complete a three-



Continue major-specific coursework, begin majorspecific career skills development, interview for third summer internship.

YEAR 3



YEAR 4 Begin a six-month.

Continue six-month co-op experience and complete major-specific coursework. Begin job search and interviews.



full-time co-op job experience, continuing through the fall semester either full- or part-time.



YEAR 2

month, full-time internship.

# What Our Co-Op Employers Say.

At MAE-Eitel, we believe in Penn State Schuylkill's approach in combining education and on-the-job learning. From our perspective, having new hires with practical experiences is a big bonus, and it's an opportunity to connect to our future workforce.

Katharina Stuerzl
Personnel and Organizational Development
MAE-Eitel, Inc.

Teaming up with Penn State Schuylkill and their Co-Op program was easily one of the best decisions we made over the past year! Our company didn't have a formal internship program in place prior to this summer, but after meeting with the Career Services team we were ready to get things rolling.

We welcomed our first intern in the summer of 2021, and she was amazing. She helped manage our social media accounts, came up with several ideas to make our office operate more efficiently, answered phones, and also helped to plan our annual employee appreciation day. It was an all-around great experience not just for the student, but for us as well. We can't wait to build more relationships with Penn State Schuylkill and its Co-op students.

Beth Mensinger
Office Manager
Independent Dock And Door

# Ready to Jumpstart Your Career?

**Learn more** schuylkill.psu.edu/co-op

Visit us schuylkill.psu.edu/visit

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