

Cooperative Education

This course offers students the opportunity to learn through experience. We work with each student to determine their interests and goals and pair them up with an employer in the region. Coop runs in both semesters and is offered as a half day (2 credit) or full day (4 credit) option. Students can take up to 14 credits in Cooperative Education during their high school experience and it is an option for grades 11 and 12. Coop is a great way to test drive a career to see if it is for you and it allows you to connect with local employers and gain valuable work experience in a wide variety of fields.

What kinds of opportunities are available? We have a vast number of employers and experiences available. We help each student to locate a placement. We do not expect you to find one on your own but if you have a contact, we are happy to reach out to them to discuss a placement opportunity for you.

How long are you at a placement? The semester begins with a two week pre-placement session to prepare you for a placement. The students are then working at their placement for a half or full day (3 or 6 hours approximately). Half day students would need to travel to both their placement and school each day.

How do I get to a placement? You would need to arrange for transportation. Some students drive, are driven by a family member or take the city bus.

What if I want to experience a trade? We have a number of employers in all of the trades. We do suggest for those trades that have to travel to jobs, that students opt for a full day Coop. This would mean that students would go to the shop for 7 am, get in the company truck and work until 3 pm and then be driven back to the shop. It is often very challenging to participate in a half day coop with trades like Electrician, Plumber, Stone Mason, Concrete forming etc. because they move around the region so this is why we recommend a full day for these types of placement. That being said, there are some opportunities for half day placements with maintenance departments in a variety of businesses.

OYAP - The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program is available for all students wanting to participate or register in a skilled trade placement. Click on the link for additional information or contact robin.chiera@dsbn.org.

I am an SHSM Student - Each SHSM student is required to complete a 2 credit or half day Coop in the area of their SHSM to earn their certification but they can also opt for a full day placement or one placement each year for grades 11 & 12. At Simcoe, we have a Manufacturing SHSM and an Information Communication Technology SHSM.

Is it possible to get a job from a placement? Our Redcoats have been very successful in earning a job offer upon the completion of their placement. Many of our students are offered after school jobs or summer jobs as a result of their placement. Our skilled trade placement students have also had great success with the offers of apprenticeship after they graduate. We have had a number of students graduate at the end of June and start their career the next Monday with an apprenticeship. Their Coop hours also count towards the requirements for their apprenticeship and they also do not have to cover the cost of their education as it is covered by the Ministry of Skills & Development.

What other opportunities are there in Coop?

1. **Military Coop** - Run by the Canadian Armed Forces. This program runs in semester 2 with an application process that begins mid semester 1. This is an all day paid Coop position. This option depends on the funding from the Government so contact robin.chiera@dsbn.org for more information.
2. **Brock Science Mentorship** - This is a program that is offered to top science students. You apply to participate and participate in an interview and selection process by Brock University. Students participating in this half day program are partnered with a Brock professor to work on a project over the course of the semester.
3. **Entrepreneurship/Research Coop** - This is a program run by DSBN. Click here for more information.

**For more information or if you have additional questions, please contact
robin.chiera@dsbn.org.**