

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.



Through the co-op program I have gained valuable hands-on experience and expanded my resume significantly. I have also gained a sense of accomplishment and confidence as I prepare for my

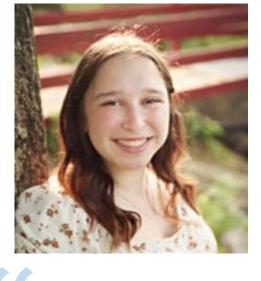
Kacey Harper, '26 **Corporate Communication**

future career.



While learning the skills offered by I was able to take them out into the workplace and gain experience that will continue to be relevant in the future. These skills enable me to be more valuable to an employer while looking for additional internships.

AJ Serrano, '27 **Business Marketing/Management**



Because of the co-op experience, the co-op program in the classroom, I was able to obtain an internship after my first year of college while most others wait until their final years. I believe this gave me an advantage because I was able to get on-site experience in a potential career path of mine early on in my college career.

> Alyssa Carestia, '27 **Psychology**



SUMMER 1

Complete a threemonth, full-time internship.



Begin major-specific coursework, begin

soft skill development, interview for your second summer internship.

YEAR 2

SUMMER 2 Complete a threemonth, full-time

internship.



SUMMER 3

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

YEAR 4

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

YEAR 3

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

Your four-year co-op might look like this:

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

What Our Co-Op Employers Say.

The Penn State Schuylkill Co-Op program is a game-changer for both students and employers. It empowers students to transform their ambition into meaningful action by offering real-world experience, mentorship, and opportunities to build a professional network. This program doesn't just prepare students for the workforce; it molds them into experienced professionals ready to make an impact from day one.

As an employer, partnering with Penn State Schuylkill's Co-Op program can be invaluable. You are able to create the opportunity to streamline your recruitment process by tapping into a pipeline of motivated, enthusiastic, and highly qualified candidates. The talent and dedication these students bring can not only address your talent gaps but also significantly enhance your internal efficiencies.

Darlene J. Robbins
President
Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Association and Council

I have been working with the Penn State Schuylkill Co-Op program for several years. This is an opportunity to provide students with a realistic environment for their chosen field of study and future career path. Working with my staff, students have been provided experience in areas of invoicing, applying cash, processing payroll entries, analyzing financial results and learning an ERP system. I find every student that has joined our department brings enthusiasm to learn and dedication to their work assignments. The program is a win-win...for the students to learn while providing additional resources to the employer.

Barbara Miller
Director of Finance
Cardinal Systems, Inc.





Ready to Jumpstart Your Career?

Learn more

schuylkill.psu.edu/co-op

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schuylkill.psu.edu/visit

Contact us

co-op@psu.edu 570-385-6000

Office of Admissions

sl-admissions@psu.edu

On the Cover.

If it were not for the internship that I secured through Penn State Schuylkill's Co-Op Program, I would not be knowledgeable about my future career path now, and I actually would have gone down the wrong path.

Arabi Chavira, '25 Biology