



Summer Cooperative Education

The AMDSB Summer Co-op Program at Goderich District Secondary School offers students the opportunity to earn high school credit for experiential learning outside of the school year.

Entry into the program is limited, with priority given to students who are finishing their diploma requirements or in specialized programs such as Specialist High Skills Majors or the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Our community is very fortunate to have excellent support for cooperative education from local employers who recognize the importance of experiential learning. Participating as a co-op employer is a direct way to contribute to a strong future for our community! There are many benefits for employers and the students are well supported by teachers. The experience is designed to be as efficient as possible from the employer's perspective.

Please see the back for answers to frequently asked questions about the summer cooperative education program.

Summer Co-op FAQs for Employers

- **How long does summer co-op last?**
 - 6 weeks, beginning in July after two full days of initial safety training and preparation have been completed with the teacher at a central location.
- **How many hours does a student need?**
 - Students either work towards one or two credits in the 6 week period.
 - 1 credit: 100 hours
 - 2 credits: 200 hours
- **Are the credits just based on hours worked?**
 - No, students work on developing their skills and knowledge through completing additional assignments and final projects outside of their work hours at the placement. They reflect on their experiences and potential career path, and also practice goal setting. Learning goals are created and revised with employer input.
- **Are co-op students paid?**
 - Students can be paid, but that is a discussion between the employer and the student. Students are granted credits by the summer school teacher based on the curriculum expectations of the co-op program course.
- **Who pays for Workplace Safety Insurance Board coverage?**
 - Unpaid students: WSIB coverage is provided by the Ministry of Education
 - Paid students: WSIB coverage is provided by the employer
- **What paperwork must be completed before starting?**
 - A Work Education Agreement is completed and signed that lists the hours of work and whether the employer or the Ministry of Education will provide WSIB coverage.
 - A safety assessment checklist is completed with the teacher during an onsite visit.
- **What does an employer need to do?**
 - The employer signs work logs and provides feedback on student progress to the co-op teacher. The teacher will check in with the employer on a regular basis for that purpose, through brief visits and other appropriate contact methods.
 - The student will set learning goals as part of their Student Cooperative Education Learning Plan (SCELP). Employers have input into identifying and refining learning goals.
- **Why should I participate?**
 - Employers have the opportunity to help local young people to explore career pathways and to shape our future workforce
 - Some employers have been able to discover and train long term employees through initially offering them a cooperative education experience.

For more information about summer co-op, please contact the Cooperative Education or Guidance Department at Goderich District Secondary School at 519-524-7353