

## State of Oregon definition of Cooperative Education

A structured educational program, which integrates classroom learning with productive, structured work experience(s) which are directly related to the goals and objectives of the educational program. Schools and participating businesses/organizations develop written cooperative training and evaluation plans to guide and measure the progress and the success of the student. School credit is awarded for successfully completed CWEs (Cooperative Work Experiences). There is strong emphasis on integration between work site learning and classroom learning. Credit hours/outcomes and levels of intensity vary depending on the program of study. CWQE may be paid or unpaid. Cooperative Work Experiences may also be known as Cooperative Education or Co-op.

- Demonstrates relevancy of academic and technical skills needed on the job
- Provides an opportunity to gain on-the-job knowledge and/or technical skills
- Provides students with on-the-job training by a skilled supervisor
- Students must be enrolled in a related program of study

Credit for Cooperative Education work experience is based on lab formula of 30-36 clock hours per credit. Individual programs may have state-approved exceptions. Twelve Cooperative Education credits can be applied toward an Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer Degree. Each Professional/Technical program sets its own policy for how many Cooperative Education credits will be required or accepted for a certificate or degree. **The transferability of Cooperative Education credit varies by institution; typically the credits transfer as general elective credit.**

Students often continue to earn credit for additional terms if new Learning Objectives can be established. Students must be clearly advised regarding how many credits will apply to their degree. In some cases, students **choose** to repeat **the course** to benefit from the experience with the understanding that the credit may not count toward their degree.

A Cooperative Education Seminar (280B) may be offered by an academic or Professional/Technical program as a complement to the students' work experiences. Seminars vary from one to three credits.

Periodic [site visits](#) are a required part of Cooperative Education work experiences. They provide a means of assuring safe work or training sites relevant to the student's studies. Site visits also are the primary tool for instructional assessment of the student's learning.

Cooperative Education [grades](#) can be Pass/No Pass or a letter grade, at the instructor's discretion.