

Welcome to Cooperative Education

Cooperative Education is a powerful educational tool that merges in-class instruction with job training experiences, designed to assist students in preparing for and exploring their occupational objectives. Co-op allows qualified students the opportunity to participate in work-integrated learning while gaining relevant work experience, academic credit, and great pay.



Benefits of Cooperative Education

Faculty:

- Reinforce academic standards
- Provide employment for your students
- Increase number of students enrolled in program
- Extend educational opportunities beyond the college's physical and financial resources
- Allow students and instructors to utilize the expertise of skilled individuals in the community who are involved in the training of young people
- Enrich the curriculum by providing on-the-job training experiences needed to prepare for specific career goals
- Provide faculty the opportunity to stay current with changes in the workplace, as technology continues to change the way we work and live

Employers:

- Can have access to a year-round supply of well-trained and highly motivated students
- Can hire Cooperative Education students who will contribute their specific knowledge to a special project
- Can participate in cost-effective recruiting
- Are able to evaluate potential full-time hires without a long-term commitment
- Can contribute to a student's college education

Note: Employers may waive student program requirements at their discretion by submitting a written letter of waiver to the Gadsden State Cooperative Education Coordinator.

Students:

- Provide employability skills through an organized plan of training under actual on-the-job conditions
- Integrate application of academic skills to the workplace
- Provide an opportunity for employment in the community following graduation
- Increase responsibility and attitudes necessary for individual maturity and job competence
- Develop safe work habits, positive attitudes, and a strong work ethic
- Guide students in making informed career choices
- Assist in the development of resumes and portfolios
- Enable a more professional transition from education to career by combining the efforts of employers and faculty in job training
- Encourage students to complete their education and allow for additional income



Program Requirements

To qualify for participation in the Gadsden State Cooperative Education Program, students must:

- Possess a high degree of character and maturity
- Demonstrate academic ability and have a Grade Point Average of 2.5
- Be currently enrolled and have already completed a minimum of 12 hours within their program of study
- Earn the recommendation of their instructors as described in the Co-op specific criteria

Orientation Session

Cooperative Education Orientation Sessions are held once per semester or on an individual basis. Attendance at one of the sessions is mandatory for students who wish to participate in the Co-op program.

Details concerning the application process and semester Cooperative Education course requirements may be obtained by contacting the Office of Career Services at 256.549.8635 or 256.549.8606.

Career Services Staff Contact Telephone Numbers

Director
256.549.8606

Career Resource Specialist
256.549.8605

Clerk I
Cooperative Education
256.549.8635

Ayers Campus (Part-time)
Cooperative Education
256.835.5481



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East Broad Campus Administration Building
1001 East Broad Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35903

Phone: 256.549.8635
Fax: 256.549.8688

E-mail: careerservices@gadsdenstate.edu



**Gadsden State
Community College**

**Cooperative
Education**

**Office of Career
Services**

“The Bridge Between Education and
Employment”