

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Cooperative Education (Work Experience) Program at College of the Sequoias offers students an opportunity to use their work experience to earn college credit. Any student who is employed (paid or volunteer) and can meet the criteria to qualify may participate. The employer must be willing to assist the student in setting measurable learning objectives, which will be accomplished during the grading period and evaluated as to degree of accomplishment.

Cooperative Work Experience Education courses, also referred to as "Internship" courses are governed by the same section of Title 5. (Title 5, Section 55252)

Each semester one to four units can be earned depending on the type of employment and the hours worked. Students interested in registering for Work Experience should plan on attending a registration meeting to be held on campus prior to each semester. Registration forms and course codes will be available from the Program Coordinator during this meeting.

Additional information may be obtained in the Career Center.

- A. Types of Work Experience: The Work Experience Program is a District-initiated and District-controlled program of education consisting of the following types:

General Work Experience: Supervised employment which is intended to assist students in acquiring desirable work habits, attitudes and career awareness. The work experience need not be related to the students' educational goals. Students may earn one–three units per semester and may participate for a maximum of two semesters. (Title 5, Section 55252)

Occupational Work Experience: Supervised employment extending classroom based occupational learning at an on-the-job learning station relating to the students' educational or occupational goal. (Title 5, Section 55252)

All laws or rules applicable to minors in employment relationships are applicable to minor students enrolled in work-experience education courses. Students may earn one-four units per semester. Participation is limited to four semesters or a maximum of 16 units. (Title 5, Section 55250.2)

- B. Cooperative Education Program Plan: Section 55251 of Title 5 requires that the District develop and adopt a plan which shall set forth a systematic design of Cooperative Work Experience Education whereby students, while enrolled in college, will gain realistic learning experiences through work. This plan, along with any subsequent changes or revisions, shall be submitted to and approved by the Chancellor's Office. The District plan shall contain the following provisions:

1. A statement that the District has officially adopted the plan, subject to approval by the State Chancellor.
 2. A specific description of the respective responsibilities of the College, student, employers, and other cooperating agencies in the operation of the program.
 3. A specific description of each type of Cooperative Work Experience Education program developed by the Program Coordinator and approved by the College of the Sequoias Board of Trustees.
 4. A description of how the District will:
 - a. Provide guidance services for students during enrollment in work experience.
 - b. Assign a sufficient number of qualified, academic personnel as stipulated in the District plan to direct the program and to assure required District services.
 - c. Assure that the students' on-the-job learning experiences are documented with written measurable learning objectives.
 - d. Evaluate on-the-job learning experiences of students with the assistance of employers.
 - e. Describe basis for awarding grade and credit.
 - f. Provide adequate clerical and instructional services.
- C. College Credit: For the satisfactory completion of all types of Cooperative Work Experience Education, students may earn up to a total of 16 semester credit hours subject to the following limitations (Title 5, Section 55253):
1. General Work Experience: A maximum of three (3) semester credit hours may be earned in general work experience education per semester for a maximum of two semesters.
 2. Occupational Work Experience: A maximum of four (4) credit hours may be earned in occupational work experience education per semester up to a total of sixteen (16) semester credit hours.
- D. Student Qualifications: In order to participate in Cooperative Work Experience Education, student shall meet the following criteria:
1. Pursue a planned program of Cooperative Work Experience which, in the opinion of the Instructor/Coordinator, includes new or expanded responsibilities or learning opportunities beyond those experienced during previous employment.
 2. Have on-the-job learning experiences that contribute to their occupational or education goals.
 3. Have the approval of the certificated faculty member.
 4. If self-employed, identify a person who is approved by academic faculty/instructor to serve as the designated employer representative and who will assist the student in identifying new or expanded learning objectives; assist in the evaluation of these objectives; and, validate hours worked.
- E. District Services: The District shall provide sufficient services for initiating and maintaining employer or volunteer sites, coordinating the program, and

supervising students. The supervision of students shall be outlined in a learning agreement coordinated by the District under the state-approved plan. The employer and the qualified instructor/coordinator shall share responsibility for on-the-job supervision which shall include but not be limited to: (Title 5, Section 55255)

1. Instructor/coordinator consultation in person with employers or designated representatives to discuss students' educational growth on the job.
2. Written evaluation of students' progress in meeting planned on-the-job learning objectives.
3. Consultation with students in person to discuss students' educational growth on the job.

The District shall provide the above services at least once each semester for each student enrolled in the Cooperative Work Experience Education.

- F. Records: The District shall maintain records which shall include at least the following (Title 5, Section 55256):
1. The type and units of Cooperative Work Experience Education in which each student is enrolled, where the student is employed, the type of job held and a statement signed and dated by an academic employee who sets forth the basis for determining whether the student is qualified for Occupational or General Work Experience.
 2. A record of the work permit issued, if applicable, signed by the designated issuing agent.
 3. The employer's or designated representative's statement of student hours worked and evaluation of performance on the agreed-upon learning objectives. Work hours will be verified by monthly timecards.
 4. New or expanded on-the-job measurable learning objectives which serve as part of the basis for determining the student's grade, signed by academic faculty, the employer or designated representative, and the student.
 5. In addition, academic faculty must sign, and maintain records documenting:
 - a. Consultation(s) in person with the employer or representative.
 - b. Personal consultation(s) with the student.
 - c. Evaluation of the student's achievement of the learning objectives.
 - d. The final grade.
- G. Work Experience Credit: Title 5, Section 55256.5 states that one student contact hour is counted for each unit of work experience credit in which a student is enrolled during any census period. In no case shall duplicate student contact hours

be counted for any classroom instruction and Cooperative Work Experience Education. The maximum contact hours counted for a student shall not exceed the maximum number of Cooperative Work Experience Education units for which the student may be granted credit as described in Title 5, Section 55253.

The learning experience and the identified on-the-job learning objectives shall be sufficient to support the units to be awarded. The following formula will be used to determine the number of units to be awarded:

1. Each 75 hours of paid work equals one semester credit.
2. Each 60 hours of non-paid work equals one semester credit.

Reference: Title 5, Sections 55250 et seq.

Approved: March 10, 2009

Revised: August 26, 2015