

# Cooperative Education Program

## By the Numbers

**#1** for co-ops/  
internships  
(US News & World  
Report, 2023)

**3,000+**  
Employer partners  
worldwide

**11,000+**  
Northeastern students  
participating in co-op  
every year

**130+**  
Locations where  
students have  
participated in co-op



## What is Co-op?

Cooperative Education – Northeastern University’s renowned, signature program – is an **experiential learning model** which integrates classroom learning with real-world **work experiences**. Through co-op, Northeastern students are able to gain real-world experience, pursue transformative careers, and apply academic principles to workplace challenges, while participating companies are able to **cultivate short and long-term industry needs** with **exceptional talent**.

## Employer Benefits of Hiring a Co-op Student

- ▶ Co-op is a **simple, cost-effective way to meet hiring needs**: no fringe benefits, no recruitment costs, and co-op students are paid as temporary hourly employees.
- ▶ Schedule co-op students back-to-back for **full-time coverage** and hire additional students in peak times.
- ▶ Leverage co-op as a **pipeline for future full-time hires**.
- ▶ Co-op students bring **fresh perspective and enthusiasm** in approaching complex problems at your workplace.
- ▶ **Program Flexibility**
  - Co-op cycles run January–June (Spring), July–December (Fall), or in shorter 4 month sessions.
  - Co-op is a **full-time work experience** (32–40 hours/week) with flexibility for some shorter-duration experiences.
  - Students can work **anywhere in the world or remotely**.

## Partnership with Northeastern

When you become an employer partner of Northeastern University, you work with a **dedicated Experiential Partnerships and Co-op team** to assist you throughout the co-op process. This co-op team works within the structured program to support you and students throughout the co-op process. Your co-op coordinator will:

- ▶ **Align employer needs** with candidate pools and university timelines.
- ▶ **Serve as a strategic partner** and suggest best practices to create a successful co-op experience for the students and employers.
- ▶ **Partner** around any issues or concerns with students.



# The Co-op Experience

## 90%

of Northeastern students participate in co-op before graduating.

## 97%

of Northeastern graduates are employed or pursuing graduate school 9 months after graduation.

## >50%

of Northeastern graduates receive a full-time job offer from a previous co-op employer.



### Structure

- ▶ Most co-ops last **six months (January–June or July–December)**.
- ▶ Students become eligible for co-op the second semester of their **sophomore year** and can participate through their **senior year**.
- ▶ **Graduate students** also participate in co-op, in some cases for periods **longer than 6 months**.
- ▶ Typically, students can complete **2 co-ops**, ensuring most Northeastern students have **12 months of real-world experience** upon graduation.
- ▶ Northeastern has nearly **200 co-op coordinators**, spread across Northeastern's 9 colleges, that support the co-op program – helping students find co-op roles and **working directly with companies** to assist in their co-op hiring needs.



### Compensation

- ▶ Co-ops are **paid positions**, at an hourly rate, paid and determined by the employer
- ▶ Most co-ops are **full-time positions** (32–40 hours/week minimum).
  - There are also some shorter-duration co-ops.



### Housing

- ▶ Students find their own co-op housing with the assistance of Northeastern.
- ▶ While not required, **some companies provide assistance too**.

