

CO-OP and BEYOND

Almost all Georgian programs offer a **co-op learning experience**. Co-op is a model and process of education that formally integrates a student's academic studies within a workplace or practice setting, with critical reflection on the experience. Basically it's a chance for you to gain experience as part of your program.



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TYPES

of **co-op** offered
at Georgian.

1

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

(A.K.A. THE CO-OP YOU'RE MOST FAMILIAR WITH)

Gain experience in a workplace related to your field of study. This is the most common type of work-integrated learning at Georgian. Most students search co-op postings in GeorgianConnects, Georgian's database, and secure positions through a formal interview process.

- Wages:** At Georgian, almost all co-ops are paid. Salaries vary, but start at minimum wage.
- Hours:** Co-op students typically work full-time hours.
- Duration:** Each co-op lasts a full term. The number of co-op terms varies by program, but co-op must account for 30 per cent of programs longer than two years, and 25 per cent of programs shorter than two years.
- Example:** An Automotive Business student works at a car dealership for four months, between academic terms.

2

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Get work experience under the supervision of an experienced registered or licensed professional in a discipline that requires practice-based work experience for a professional licence or certification.

- Wages:** Most clinical placements aren't paid.
- Hours:** Hours vary by placement, but most are full-time.
- Duration:** Varies by program.
- Example:** A Practical Nursing student spends a total of 168 hours supporting clients' unique care needs in a variety of practice settings, while completing other coursework.

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FIELD PLACEMENT

Gain hands-on experience in a setting relevant to your program.

- Wages:** Most field placements aren't paid.
- Hours:** They are typically part-time. Sometimes students are in field placements concurrent with regular course work.
- Duration:** These are typically short-term experiences.
- Example:** A Paralegal student works under the supervision of a licensee of the Law Society of Upper Canada for four weeks after his or her final term.

4

INTERNSHIP

Take part in a supervised, structured work opportunity — typically for academic credit.

- Wages:** Not all internships are paid.
- Hours:** Hours vary, but internships are typically full-time.
- Duration:** Internships at Georgian are typically four months long and placed at the end of an academic program, prior to graduation.
- Example:** A Therapeutic Recreation student works in a nursing home for three months after courses end.

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APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Work with Georgian's Research and Innovation department to help businesses with product design, prototyping, market research, testing, and more. Research projects — typically completed for academic credit — can be co-op terms, capstone assignments, or integrated into courses.

- Wages:** Most applied research projects are unpaid, unless students are on co-op terms.
- Hours:** Vary by opportunity.
- Duration:** Varies by opportunity.
- Example:** An Electrical Engineering Technology student works under the supervision of faculty to prototype a new product for a company, for four months between academic terms.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

(A.K.A. SERVICE LEARNING OR CSL)

Integrate meaningful community service with classroom learning and critical reflection. The goal of CSL is to enrich your learning experience and strengthen communities, typically through work in partnership with a community-based organization. These opportunities are typically set up by a faculty member in a specific course or program to help you meet learning outcomes

- Wages:** This is unpaid experience.
- Hours:** Vary, but typically about 10 or so hours of service outside of class.
- Duration:** The length varies by experience and partner.
- Example:** As part of a course project, a Social Service Worker student helps a local shelter raise awareness about a new community program.

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APPRENTICESHIP

Not part of any full-time Georgian program, apprenticeship is an agreement between a person who wants to learn a skill and an employer who provides them with paid practical experience under the direction of a certified journeyman in a work environment conducive to learning the tasks and functions of a skilled worker.

- Wages:** Apprenticeships are paid, but salaries vary.
- Hours:** Apprentices typically work full-time hours.
- Duration:** Apprenticeships take two to five years to complete, depending on the trade. They are approximately 80 per cent on-the-job experience with 20 per cent technical classroom training — which you can do at Georgian.
- Example:** Someone who wants to be a plumber works under the supervision of a certified plumber, as part of a contracting firm.

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Embed entrepreneurship into your work-integrated experience.

- Georgian's Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation and the Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre offer resources, space, mentorship and funding to help fledgling businesses and ideas grow.
- Through Georgian's eCo-op program, full-time students can work on their start-ups for their co-op credit.
- Community impact projects allow field placement students in Human Services the chance to work with community partners to resolve social issues.