



Law Co-operative Education Program

Student FAQ's

1. How many students are admitted into the Co-op Program?

The Law Co-op Program admits 35 students each year through a lottery. An additional 5 spots are reserved for a special access category. Students who are not admitted are placed on a wait-list and may be admitted into the Co-op Program as spaces become available.

2. What are the chances of getting into the Law Co-op Program?

If the Law Co-op Program is oversubscribed, admission is based on a lottery among the students who apply. Admission to the Faculty of Law does not guarantee admission to the Co-op Program.

3. How many work terms must co-op students complete?

A student enrolled in the Co-op Program must complete a minimum of three work terms. Students may be eligible to complete additional work terms, depending on the availability of positions with employers.

4. Where do the work terms take place?

There are co-op positions within British Columbia, other parts of Canada (including northern Canada) and internationally. The Law Co-op Program is supportive of students seeking out new work term opportunities in regions of interest to them. All placements must be approved by the Law Co-op Coordinator.

5. Does participating in the Co-op Program extend the completion date of the J.D. program?

Students who enroll in the Law Co-op Program will complete their law degree approximately four to eight months later than law students not enrolled in the Law Co-op Program.

6. Do all Law Co-op students find a co-op placement?

The Law Co-op Program has a very successful track record of placing students, however, there is no guarantee of a placement. The more flexible a student is in terms of type of job and location of placement, the easier it is to secure a co-op term. Students who make an effort to succeed in co-op are typically successful in securing a co-op placement.

7. What are the advantages to participating in the Law Co-op program?

- Students apply and test their classroom knowledge in productive working environments.
- Students generate income that helps finance legal education.

- Students are exposed to a broad range of career options and will graduate with a better sense of what they want to do with their law degree.
- Students develop an impressive resume and graduate with a network of contacts in the legal community.
- Communication skills, resume writing, job search and interview skills are developed through the co-op preparation process.

8. How will participating in the Law Co-op Program impact my application for financial aid?

Co-op students are not automatically ineligible for financial aid. Earning income through a Co-op work term, however, is a factor that will be considered in an application for financial aid. For additional information, please speak to the Faculty's Financial Aid Officer.

9. Can I do consecutive academic terms and/or work terms?

Co-op students are expected to follow a schedule with alternating academic terms and work terms. The purpose of this model is to allow academic learning and practical work-experience to build upon and complement one another throughout the J.D. program. In special circumstances, and with the permission of the Law Co-op Coordinator and the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations, students may be permitted to complete consecutive academic terms and/or work terms. For more information about approved Co-op schedules, please see the Law Co-op Student Handbook.

10. Can I do all of my Co-op work terms during summer semesters?

Co-op students are expected to follow a schedule with alternating academic terms and work terms. Co-op students are also expected to complete the second semester of second year during the summer session. Students require permission from the Law Co-op Coordinator and the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations to change their schedule. For more information about approved Co-op schedules, please see the Law Co-op Student Handbook.

11. Does participating in the Law Co-op Program impact student involvement in academic and extra-curricular activities?

Yes, participating in the Law Co-op Program does impact involvement in some academic and extra-curricular activities during law school. Please refer to the handout titled "Law Co-op – The J.D. Program and Extra-Curricular Involvement" and/or speak to the Law Co-op Coordinator.

12. How will Law Co-op impact applications for articles and clerkships?

Co-op students will complete law school 4 to 8 months later than their non-coop classmates. Some law firms can be flexible regarding when students begin articling, however, this varies from province to province. Law Co-op students have been very successful in securing articles and clerkships. Some law Co-op students have secured articling positions through one of their Co-op placements. As each student's situation varies, please speak to the Law Co-op Coordinator and/or the Law Careers early in your law school career.