

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE IS A UNIQUE EDUCATION PROCESS DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL AND DEVELOP THEIR CAREERS BY INTEGRATING CLASSROOM STUDY WITH PLANNED AND SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE IN CAREER OR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE FORMAL CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT.



Cooperative Education Philosophy

The basic philosophy of cooperative education is that personal growth and professional development can be achieved by an educational method that combines classroom learning with planned and supervised practical experience away from the academic community. Learning does not confine itself to attempts of achieving academic mastery. The positive development of a student's attitudes, interests, values, and motives are equally dependent upon experimental learning.

The Value of Cooperative Education

The Cooperative Education Program offers paid employment for the purpose of providing experimental learning opportunities in the occupational field for which a student is preparing. The Program has the special value of providing learning situations in the work world which enables the student to become better acquainted with both theory and practice. In effect, this system of education can be considered as a process of reinforced learning to develop the "whole person," because it helps bridge the gap between classroom preparation and the reality of day-to-day circumstances in a particular occupation.

Cooperative Education Requirements

There is no basic difference between a cooperative track and a conventional track in terms of academic requirements which must be followed pursuant to the role of experimental learning in the program:

Operational Factors – The practical experience must be considered as an integral part of the educational process. There must be certain minimum standards of performance included in the requirements of the institution for graduation. The institution must assume the responsibility for integrating experimental learning into the regular education program.

Emphasis on Educational Values – Educational values must be the primary consideration in the placement of students in order to make the integration of cooperative employment and classroom study effective. Learning should be socially desirable, realistic, productive and progressive in responsibility. The student is totally engaged in the academic process and the Cooperative Education experience.