

PART G COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE - OPTIONAL

While this section is not compulsory, being an accredited member of the Canadian Association for Cooperative Education (CEWIL CANADA) gives you access to a community of professionals focused on establishing and exceeding best practices. Consequently, it is the responsibility of each member to share innovations and enhancements from the outset. In return, these best practices are given back to the community through CEWIL CANADA conference sessions and professional development events.

Innovations and enhancements are a critical part of ensuring a healthy and vibrant community of practice. These examples should demonstrate the overall quality of your program and how you organize, structure, or operate your program. This section should not include information already provided in Parts A – E of this application package.

Examples might include, but should not be limited to:

The innovative ways your institution and program(s) makes a commitment to co-operative education such as special events; large scale advertising campaigns; statistical compilations (intake, retention and graduation);

The quality of program delivery to enhance the student experiences. For example: through e-learning; social media; field trips; discussion groups; professional development/pre-employment training programs; etc

The processes, procedures and/or methods for monitoring and evaluation to enhance the student, employer or faculty’s experience. For example: through technology or delivery methods; learning objectives; special innovations such as the type of work term reports required; debriefing procedure; etc

Descriptors of “Interesting & Innovative Things”	Supporting Materials
<p>29) Mount Saint Vincent University’s co-operative education program believes that it is important to recognize and celebrate the successes and accomplishments of both co-op students and employers. The Co-op Office has developed two annual awards – <i>The Mount Co-op Student of the Year Award</i> and the <i>The Mount Co-op Employer of the Year Award</i>.</p> <p>Mount Co-op Student of the Year Awards In 1999, Mount Saint Vincent University’s Co-operative Education program had its 20th Anniversary. In recognition of this milestone, the Co-op Office instituted the Mount Co-op Student of the Year Award. Each year the Co-op Office seeks nominations from co-operative education employers.</p> <p>The selection criterion for this award includes the students’ achievements on the job, their extra-curricular activities and academic achievements, as well as contributions to the community and co-operative education. One student from each of the co-op programs (business administration, public relations and tourism & hospitality management) is named the Mount Co-op Student of the Year.</p> <p>The award recipients and their nominating employers are invited to attend the annual Academic Awards Reception to celebrate each student’s success.</p> <p>See Appendix 29a for a screen shot of the “Mount Co-op Student of the Year” website, which includes the nomination form, or visit http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/cooperativeeducation/coopawards.aspx.</p> <p>Mount Co-op Employer of the Year Awards In 2009, Mount Saint Vincent University’s Co-operative Education program had its 30th Anniversary. In recognition of this milestone, the Co-op Office instituted the Mount Co-op Employer of the Year Award.</p>	<p>Appendix 29, 30, etc.</p> <p>Appendix 29a – Screen Shot of the “Mount Co-op Student of the Year” Co-op Website</p> <p>Appendix 29b – Screen Shot of the “Mount Co-op Employer of the Year” Co-op Website</p> <p>Appendix 30a – Screen Shot of the “Co-op Grad Statistics” Co-op Website</p> <p>Appendix 31a – Screen Shot of the “Co-op Wisdom: Profiles & Tips” Co-op Website</p>

Co-op students can nominate employers who have displayed commitment, excellence and longstanding support of co-op. These employers are valuable partners of the Mount's co-op program, students and the university. An employer from each co-op program is selected.

The selection criterion for this award is based on demonstrating a commitment to co-op and providing a supportive and challenging work environment. The other criteria is that employers demonstrated leadership and acted as a mentor.

The award recipients are recognized each year during CEWIL National Co-op & WIL Week.

See Appendix 29b for a screen shot of the "Mount Co-op Employer of the Year" website, which includes the nomination form, or visit

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/cooperativeeducation/coopawards.aspx>.

30) The Co-op Office consistently seeks feedback and input from co-op students, employers and graduates about the effectiveness of the co-op program. The following surveys are completed annually and the feedback received provides direction to the co-op staff about modifications to consider to enhance the co-op program and/or respond to emerging trends:

- Survey feedback obtained from students following the *Roadmap to Success* professional development conference.
- Survey feedback obtained from employers following the *Roadmap to Success* professional development conference.
- End of work term evaluation sent to students at the of their work term to provide feedback to the Co-op Office about the overall quality of the work term (starting this initiative with the summer 2018 cohort).
- Co-op graduate survey sent one year after students graduate to determine employment success. These grad statistics shown show the positive impact co-op has for graduates. Some of the grad statistics include the following:
 - More than 80% of co-op grads secured employment in their field of study within six months of graduation.
 - 91% of co-op grads secured employment in their field of study within one year of graduation.
 - Co-op grads are employed in all employment sectors - government, private, and not-for-profit.
 - 91% of co-op grads said that co-op was effective in helping secure full-time employment after graduation.
 - 94% of co-op grads felt prepared for the workforce after completing co-op.
 - 91% of co-op grads said that co-op was effective in helping secure full-time employment after graduation.
 - 98% of co-op grads said that they were satisfied with the Mount's co-op program.

See Appendix 30a for a screen shot of the "Co-op Grad Statistics" website or visit

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/cooperativeeducation/aboutcoop/coopgradsstats.aspx>

31) The Co-op Office welcomes the opportunity to share the stories and accomplishments of co-op students. The Co-op Office actively reaches out to stories to share their experiences and the stories are often captured in profile pieces that are shared via social media (both co-op and university-wide social media accounts), through employer newsletter and through co-op student newsletters. Many of these stories are collected in the "Co-op Wisdom: Profiles & Tips" section of the co-op website.

See Appendix 31a for a screen shot of the "Co-op Wisdom: Profiles & Tips" website or visit

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/cooperativeeducation/coopwisdomprofilestips/default.aspx>.

Appendix 32a –
Screen Shot of the
"Co-op Peer
Network" Co-op
Website

32) In May 2018 the Co-op Office launched the “Co-op Peer Network” which links current co-op students with co-op graduates or students who completed all three co-op work terms. Co-op grads / senior students are ambassadors of the co-op program and are available to answer any questions current co-op students may have about the co-op process – from job applications to questions about being in the workplace.

When preparing to launch this program in spring 2018, the response from co-op grads / senior students was exceptional. There are diverse mentors from all co-op programs and grads working in various sectors. These mentors provide a wealth of information and insight to current co-op students navigating the co-op program and the workplace.

See Appendix 32a for a screen shot of the “Co-op Peer Network” website or visit <http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/cooperativeeducation/cooppeernetwork.aspx>.