

University of Idaho

Student Financial Aid Services
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OFFICE USE ONLY Doc:
COOPF – G5

Cooperative Education

Co-op, short for Cooperative Education, is an educational model in which students alternate semesters of academic study with terms of full-time (paid) employment in positions related to their academic and/or career goals. A participant can do 1-2 co-ops for two separate semesters plus summers, gaining up to a year of career experience before graduating.

Financial Aid for the Co-op:

- Eligible students *may* have financial aid; however, you are *not required* to utilize the aid you have been offered while completing your co-op/internship semester(s). The aid is available and completely optional.
- We encourage students to carefully plan for personal and academic budgets in advance, and then accept only the financial aid you actually need. Future income, the effects of indebtedness, and the ability to repay loans must be considered in advance.
- This special arrangement will use terms of your lifetime loan and grant eligibility if you choose to access financial aid. You must be aware of grant and loan limits – both annual and lifetime, and carefully plan accordingly.
- For financial aid purposes, students will be reported to the National Clearing House as though they had full-time enrollment. This keeps your student loans from going into repayment.
- Summer session funding is limited. As a rule, a student's eligibility for summer financial aid is limited to Pell Grant or remaining Direct Stafford Loan eligibility from the academic year.
- The Go Idaho and other institutionally funded scholarships are not available during the co-op experience.
- Some scholarships require credit completion that may impact your eligibility.

Student Responsibilities:

- Students need to notify the Student Financial Aid Services that they are planning on participating in a co-op and communicate their plans for financial aid while they are away.
- The student needs to investigate and apply for scholarships in advance. For scholarships the student already has, the donor must be consulted to determine if the student is eligible to have them while the student is participating in cooperative program/internship semester(s).
- Students need to work with their department and Student Financial Aid Services to ensure that any scholarships have been properly accounted for during the term the student is away for the internship/co-op.
- We **STRONGLY** encourage students who wish to utilize financial aid during their co-op to meet with our BEAMS program to review their financial situation.

I have read the above information, including the Student Responsibilities. As it relates to my co-op semester, I make the following financial aid election:

I wish to utilize financial aid for my co-op semester. I understand this will impact my lifetime limits of eligibility.

I do not wish to utilize financial aid for my co-op semester.

Student Printed Name: _____ V#: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Co-op Semester: Fall _____ Spring _____ Summer _____