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 50 students 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 two work-terms to obtain the Co-op designation, and this appears on the parchment upon graduation. Students are able to complete additional work terms as part of their co-op schedule, depending on the availability of co-op positions.

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 might complete their law degree later than students not enrolled in the Program – this will depend on the number of work-terms each student incorporates into their co-op schedule.

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?

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.