



# Maui Community College

University of Hawai'i System



## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION DOCUMENT 1 *FOR THE STUDENT* 2007 - 2008 \_\_\_\_\_ (semester)

Welcome to the MCC Cooperative Education Program and thank you for enrolling. The information in Parts I and II is designed to help you and your employer / field supervisor understand the purposes and objectives of the Co-op Program and the important roles that you both will play in your learning and career development. Your employer / field supervisor also has a copy of Document 1 in his / her packet. **After you and your employer / field supervisor have read Document 1, please complete Form 1 and submit it to your Co-op instructor.** When you begin the required instructional seminar, you will receive specific information on what you will be required to complete and submit during the field experience period.

### **PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **A. WHAT IS CO-OP?**

- a unique educational experience combining traditional classroom learning with “real world” learning opportunities occurring in the work environment.
- a tri-part relationship involving cooperation between the employer, the student, and the College to create a bridge between classroom learning and the world of work.

#### **B. HOW DOES CO-OP BENEFIT THE EMPLOYER?**

- enhance employee performance and motivation since work performance and achievement of learning/performance objectives is considered along with the instructional component in determining the student's final grade.
- availability of support and assistance from the Co-op instructor and other related faculty.
- opportunity to be involved in the educational process and provide direct input to the College about employer's training needs.
- observe the potential and performance of prospective permanent employees.
- reduce recruitment costs.
- reduce basic training needs because the majority of Co-op students acquire basic technical skills and knowledge through classroom learning before enrolling in Co-op.
- increase employee retention and motivation because Co-op students seek employment opportunities in their fields of academic and career interest.

Maui Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest and court records, sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran.

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**C. HOW DOES CO-OP BENEFIT THE STUDENT?**

- gain work experience and on-the-job training in the student's field of academic and career interest.
- apply and integrate theories and skills learned in the classroom to real work situations.
- develop skills, attitudes, insights, and behaviors necessary for success and effectiveness in the workplace.
- develop and / or enhance understanding and functioning of the student's role as a contributing member of the work team.
- develop self-confidence and self-esteem as a professional in the field.
- validate the student's academic and career choice.
- establish networks and credentials for future employment and / or career advancement opportunities.
- earn money to pay for educational expenses.
- earn academic credits.

**D. WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR THE STUDENT TO EARN ACADEMIC CREDITS?**

- complete a minimum number of hours during the training period (225 work hours for 3 academic credits; 150 work hours for 2 credits; 75 work hours for 1 credit).
- attend and participate in seminars as arranged with Co-op instructor.
- complete related documentation of the field experience and class assignments, including a Career Portfolio.
- successful on-the-job work performance.

**E. HOW ARE CO-OP FIELD PLACEMENTS ESTABLISHED?**

- may be student-initiated: student seeks appropriate employment; obtains approval from employer / supervisor and Co-op instructor to use new or current job as Co-op field placement.
- may be program initiated: Co-op instructor initiates establishment of Co-op field placement with prospective employer; instructor and employer jointly agree on training opportunities and conditions; employer sets appropriate qualifications and requirements for Co-op trainee / student; employer select(s) from among qualified candidates referred by Co-op.
- may be employer initiated: employer contacts Co-op to discuss setting up a field placement; remainder of the process same as program initiated.

**F. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE CO-OP PARTICIPANTS?**

**1. THE STUDENT:**

- comply with regulations and policies of the employer and the College
- accountable to employer for regular and / or agreed upon special work expectations and responsibilities.
- subject to and included in all regular and / or agreed upon special personnel policies and procedures.
- accountable for agreed upon learning outcomes and Co-op course assignments and requirements.
- participate as a fully contributing member of the work team.
- make the best use of learning opportunities provided by the employer.

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## 2. THE EMPLOYER / FIELD SUPERVISOR:

- conform to all Federal and State regulations regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action as defined in the University of Hawaii policy (see current Maui Community College catalog).
- provide Co-op student with regular and /or agreed upon special orientation, training, and supervision.
- provide a well-defined job description.
- provide safe working environment and conditions and appropriate training.
- provide on-going mentoring and regular feedback to Co-op student and Co-op instructor about student's work performance and growth.
- assist student to establish and accomplish appropriate learning / performance objectives which will contribute to the student's occupational / professional growth and development.
- assist student to successfully complete specific Co-op course requirements as follows:

**It is the student's responsibility to initiate the completion of all forms, to provide the necessary forms to be used, and to ensure that they are submitted to the Co-op office by the designated deadlines. The County of Maui Co-op program has additional requirements because of its special status. International students on F-1 visas also have additional conditions to comply with for off-campus employment.**

### a. Job Description and Learning / Performance Objectives (standard Co-op form):

- provide copy of existing job description or assist student in developing a written description.
- assist student to establish relevant learning / performance objectives related to the position.

### b. Time Sheets (standard Co-op form):

- certify student work hours on form which student is responsible for completing and maintaining.

### c. Employer's / Field Supervisor's Evaluation of Student Work Performance & Completion of Learning / Performance Objectives (standard Co-op form):

- complete mid-term and final evaluations and review with student.

### d. Co-op Instructor Field Site Visits and Other Consultation on Student's Work Performance.

- provide opportunities for Co-op instructor to visit and observe student on the job.
- instructor responsible for requesting and making prior arrangements with employer / field supervisor for site visits that meet their regular work schedules and obligations.
- employer / field supervisor encouraged to request support and assistance from Co-op instructor to resolve any conflicts or concerns about student's work performance.

### e. Other Related Assignments / Field Site Learning Activities:

- provide student with information and / or assistance in completing other work-based learning assignments such as health and safety.

## 3. THE CO-OP INSTRUCTOR:

- provide job placement assistance to students, as needed.
- assess appropriateness of individual employment situations as Co-op field sites.
- monitor on-the-job learning and performance of Co-op student through regular contact with employer / field supervisor.
- provide related classroom instruction.
- provide job coaching and / or counseling to students, as needed.
- provide consultation and assistance to employer / field supervisor in conflict situations and / or other work performance concerns involving Co-op student.

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- provide linkage between employer and MCC faculty and other College resources to help meet employer's training needs.
- evaluate student's overall course performance and achievement and assign grade and credits for the semester.

**PART II: EMPLOYER'S / FIELD SUPERVISOR'S CHECKLIST (you should review it too!)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Provide the student with **safe working conditions and environment**, including orientation and training about proper and safe use of equipment and task performance.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Provide **on-the-job training and learning opportunities** that are meaningful and relevant to the student's career / educational interests and objectives and which, in turn, will enhance the student's effectiveness and productivity.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Conduct an **employee orientation** which includes introducing the student to his / her co-workers and orienting the student to the job duties and expectations, working environment, safety rules and procedures, company policies (including sexual harassment and substance abuse, and appropriate attire) and regulations and other essential information in order that the student will be able to efficiently and effectively fulfill his / her work responsibilities.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Assist the student to develop **relevant learning / performance objectives** and provide appropriate assistance necessary for the student to successfully accomplish those objectives.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Provide **supervision and monitoring** of the student's work performance to ensure safety and proper completion of assignments and responsibilities.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Provide **feedback** to the student and Co-op instructor. Field Supervisors will be asked to complete evaluations mid-way through and at the end of the training period.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Verify the student's **Co-op work hours**.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain **communications** with the student's Co-op instructor in person or other methods.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Assist in the completion or verification of standard **Co-op forms and assignments**.

As the semester proceeds, you will receive further information. Additionally, within the next few weeks, your instructor will be contacting your employer / field supervisor to discuss your Co-op participation.

It is the belief and experience of the Co-op faculty that participation in Co-op will contribute to your motivation, productivity, and effectiveness on the job, and, as importantly, to your career growth and development. We encourage you to maximize the opportunities that you are being offered through Co-op and to look to us for support and guidance along the way. Mahalo for your cooperation and active participation in this partnership.

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