

## Rating for Cooperative Education

If you participated in the Cooperative Education Program, how would you rate your Co-op assignment in terms of its *value* and *relevance* to your area of study?

**Value:**

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor

**Relevance:**

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor

- Nearly 39 percent (134) of all respondents and 61 percent (108) of career technical respondents had participated in Cooperative Education.
- Over 66 percent of all respondents who had participated in Cooperative Education indicated the *value* (Table 33) of their experience was “very good” and nearly 68 percent indicated the *relevance* of their experience (Table 34) was “very good.”
- Approximately 85 percent of all respondents who had participated in Cooperative Education indicated both the value and relevance of their experiences were “good” or “very good.”

### Interpretation/Analysis

Most respondents found their cooperative work experiences to be rewarding, both professionally and personally.

Four themes emerged from the comments about the Cooperative Education experience. Cooperative Education

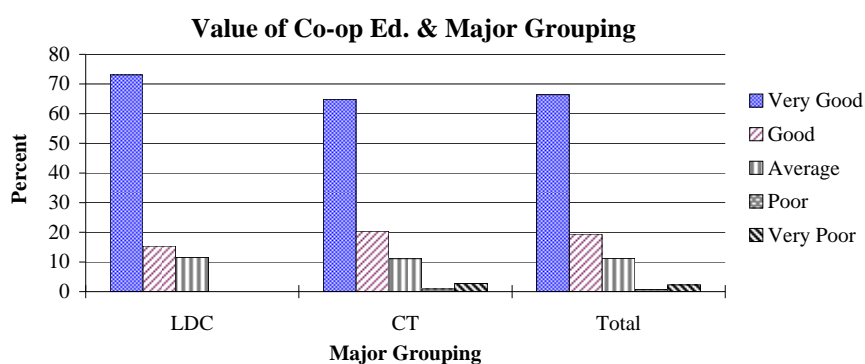
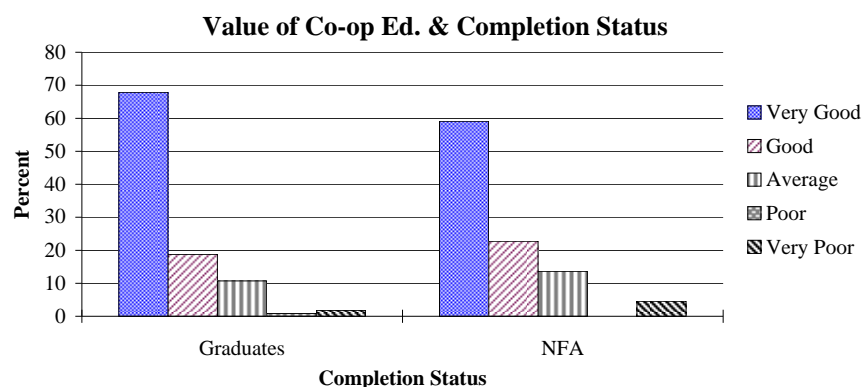
- Prepared students for real-life jobs.
- Opened doors to new jobs.
- Helped respondents find what interested them.
- Provided an enjoyable experience.

Representative comments begin on page 62.

**Table 33: Value of Cooperative Education** (Co-op Ed. Respondents)

Value of Co-op Ed.	Completion Status				Major Grouping				Total	
	Graduates		NFA		LDC		CT			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very Good	76	67.9	13	59.1	19	73.1	70	64.8	89	66.4
Good	21	18.8	5	22.7	4	15.4	22	20.4	26	19.4
Average	12	10.7	3	13.6	3	11.5	12	11.1	15	11.2
Poor	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	1	0.9	1	0.7
Very Poor	2	1.8	1	4.5	-	-	3	2.8	3	2.2
Total	112	100.0	22	100.0	26	100.0	108	100.0	134	100.0

Example: The percentage of graduate respondents who participated in Co-op Ed. and rated the value of their Co-op Ed. experience as "very good" was 67.9%.



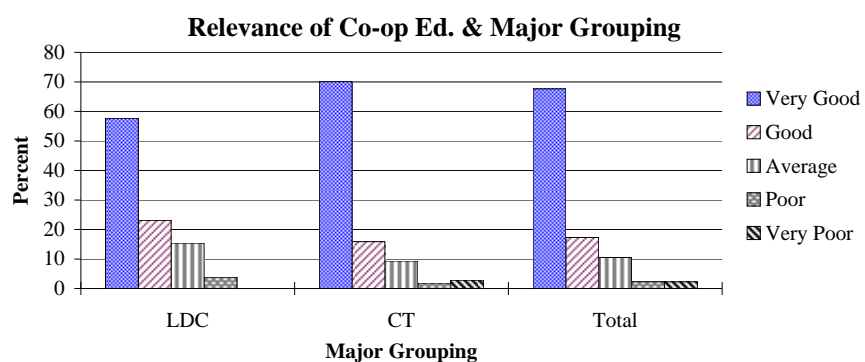
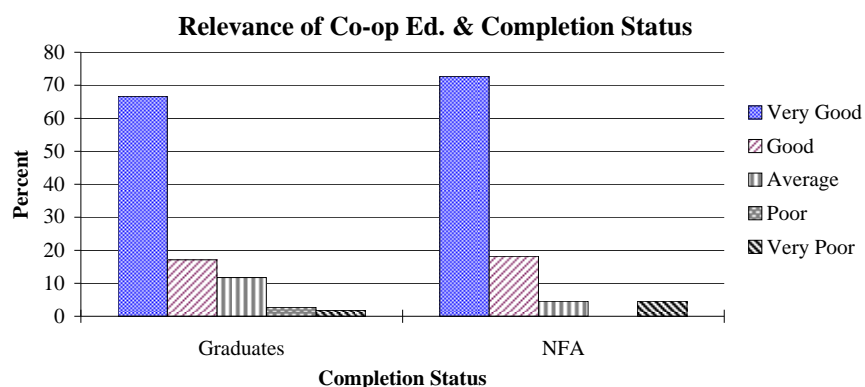
Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.

**Table 34: Relevance of Cooperative Education** (Co-op Ed. Respondents)

Relevance of Co-op Ed	Completion Status				Major Grouping				Total	
	Graduates		NFA		LDC		CT			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very Good	74	66.7	16	72.7	15	57.7	75	70.1	90	67.7
Good	19	17.1	4	18.2	6	23.1	17	15.9	23	17.3
Average	13	11.7	1	4.5	4	15.4	10	9.3	14	10.5
Poor	3	2.7	-	-	1	3.8	2	1.9	3	2.3
Very Poor	2	1.8	1	4.5	-	-	3	2.8	3	2.3
Total	111	100.0	22	100.0	26	100.0	107	100.0	133	100.0

Example: The percentage of graduate respondents who participated in Co-op Ed and rated the relevance of their Co-op Ed. experience as "very good" was 66.7%.



Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.

## **Cooperative Education Comments**

Former Lane students commented that their Cooperative Education experiences:

### **Prepared Respondents for Real-Life Jobs.**

- \* *It was helpful seeing and working with actual legal documents vs what we did in class.*
- \* *It was SO helpful and what a learning experience - I had a more "realistic" idea and first-hand experience about my chosen field.*
- \* *It was a positive experience for my MOA program because it gave me an opportunity to 'test' what I had learned and build my confidence in my abilities and accomplishments.*
- \* *That got me out in the field and taught me what I needed to know and allowed me to put what I had been taught in class into a reality.*
- \* *Very relevant - good supervision and support. Instructor helped me get into a difficult department.*
- \* *It was very valuable experience as far as letting me know what takes place in the world of graphic design outside school.*

### **Opened Doors to Jobs.**

- \* *My coop was a paid internship from which I transitioned to a regular benefited position.*
- \* *I am still here working after graduating from Lane.*
- \* *I got a job that I am still working three years later.*
- \* *My co-op experience was responsible for me getting my job.*
- \* *My co-op experience became my job. It worked out great for me.*
- \* *The people I worked with were great. Co-op enabled me to get a job.*
- \* *It was really good. I had a lot of choices in the area. I found the experience useful. Without that experience I wouldn't have my current job..*

### **Helped both Lower Division Collegiate and Career Technical Respondents Find What Interested Them.**

- \* *Mostly, the experience helped me discover what I did not want to do as a career which put what I did want to do in greater focus.*
- \* *They really helped me understand what I wanted to do. I did a few of them.*
- \* *I had a very good experience and it encouraged me to go on with my education.*
- \* *Without this opportunity I would never have decided on what profession to obtain. This was very beneficial to me.*
- \* *Co-op was a great way for me to figure out if this major is what I really wanted to do.*
- \* *It was extremely helpful to get a feel for the field you would be working in and the types of people, the tasks and work that would be encountered.*

### **Provided an Enjoyable Experience.**

- \* *My co-op was really good. The school was good about checking in with me and making sure I was comfortable with the office I was placed in.*
- \* *I enjoyed getting credit and hands on experience at the same time.*
- \* *I really enjoyed it and would have liked to have done another co-op placement.*
- \* *Co-op was excellent and I am doing another co-op just because I liked the first round so much.*
- \* *Fantastic experience.*

**A small percentage of respondents** expressed some disappointment and/or frustration with their Cooperative Education experiences as the following comments indicate:

- \* *With employers' demands for experience, I think there should be more time spent in Co-op.*
- \* *More of a variety was needed.*
- \* *I did my co-op through my current job and that was a mistake. I didn't do what I was supposed to, so I didn't get a learning experience.*

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