



# **Social Sciences Careers & Experiential Ed.**

Development of a  
Co-op Program in  
Social Sciences

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# New Co-op Program Options

Announced in 2023 with first Level II cohort now heading on Work Term in Summer 2024



## Economics Co-op (Honours BA)

All program options begin in Level II after a general first year.



## Political Science Co-op (Honours BA)

Students complete three (3) full-time work terms.



## Work and Labour Studies Co-op (Honours BA)

Total time to program completion is 5 years.

# How the Strategic Alignment Fund Project Worked

## Environmental Scan & Hiring



### Learning from Best Practices:

- Careers & Co-op Teams in Business, Science, Engineering, Humanities, & Student Success
- Regional & Canadian Universities
- CEWIL Canada
- Ontario Co-op Directors

### Three (3) new staff:

- Career Development & Relationship Manager
- Talent Partner Consultant
- Administrative Assistant II

### Successes:

- Curriculum Design, Recruitment Processes

# How Co-op Works: Work Term Sequence

Standard 'Plan A' for Students

Stage	Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer
<b>Year One</b>	Academic Term	Academic Term	Off/Part Time
<b>Year Two</b>	Academic Term (& Soc Sci 2ELO)	Academic Term (& Job Search Course)	<b>Work Term</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	Academic Term (& Job Search Course)	<b>Work Term</b>	Off/Part Time
<b>Year Four</b>	Academic Term (& Job Search Course)	<b>Work Term</b>	Off/Part Time
<b>Year Five</b>	Academic Term	Academic Term	<b>Graduation</b>



# What We're Learning

The 'Ecosystem' of Co-op, Career, Experiential Education, Skill Development, and Student Experience

- Employer Engagement
- 'Get Experience'
- Events in a Changing Learning Environment
- In-Course Elements
- Teaching and Learning Technologies





# Unique Challenges

## The Social Sciences Context

Building the co-op program has given us a chance to tackle a few Social Sciences and Liberal Arts challenges head-on, including:

- Vocationalism
- Credentialism
- Job-Title-Centrism

Rising to meet these cultural challenges encourages a broad-based, evidence-based teaching and learning approach.







## Next Steps and Sustainment

- Program Innovation
- Multipurpose Resources
- Career Option
- Goals for Possible Expansion



# Next Steps

Where we go from here

The Next

# 45

co-op students are currently in the program application process



# Development of a Co-op Program in Social Sciences

Insights and Reflections

