



**What are the benefits of co-op?**

Co-operative education in the Faculty of Science allows highly motivated students to extend their learning process beyond the classroom and into the workplace. Students get the chance to network with experts, cultivate a list of solid references and graduate with a well-developed résumé—one with an impressive work history in professional settings.

Science students apply to the co-op program(s) of their choice in 2<sup>nd</sup> year and, if accepted, begin the program in the fall of third year. All co-op programs are five-year programs (where work terms are interspersed with academic study), as shown below:

CO-OP PROGRAM	THIRD YEAR			FOURTH YEAR			FIFTH YEAR	
	FALL	WINTER	SPR/SUM	FALL	WINTER	SPR/SUM	FALL	WINTER
<b>Actuarial &amp; Financial Mathematics</b> <b>Biochemistry</b> <b>Biophysics</b> <b>Chemical Biology</b> <b>Chemistry</b> <b>Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences</b> <b>Environmental Sciences</b> <b>Geography &amp; Enviro. Sciences</b> <b>Life Sciences</b> <b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b> <b>Medical Physics</b> <b>Molecular Biology &amp; Genetics*</b> <b>Physics</b>	Academic Term	Work Term	Work Term	Academic Term	Academic Term	Work Term	Work Term	Academic Term
<b>Biology &amp; Pharmacology</b>	Academic Term	Academic Term	Work Term	Academic Term	Work Term	Senior Thesis	Work Term	Academic Term

\* Sequence pending approval

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What are the requirements to apply for co-op?**

Students must complete *SCIENCE 2C00 – Skills for Career Success in Science* before their first work term (preferably in level 2) as well as prerequisite courses for the specific co-op program (see the McMaster Undergraduate Calendar). If admitted to a co-op program, you must also complete *SCIENCE 3C00 – Advanced Job Search Skills for Science Co-op Students* in level 3.

**Is there a fee to participate in co-op?**

Co-op students pay a \$2600 co-op fee, which is paid in 3 or 4 equal installments during your work terms. This fee gives students access to specialized co-op services, including résumé critiques, coaching and access to the co-op job board.

**Am I guaranteed a job?**

While you are not guaranteed a job, the SCCE office works in partnership with co-op students to help them find a position. Co-op students receive access to an exclusive co-op job board, but are also shown how to actively pursue other opportunities through their own networks.

**Are all jobs in Hamilton?**

Positions on OscarPlus will be located all across Canada, with the majority being within the GTA. Your willingness to travel will directly affect the number of opportunities available to you. International work terms are possible, but require the co-op student to invest more time in their personalized job search.



### Frequently Asked Questions (contd.)

#### ***I'm Interested! How do I apply?***

Applications go live in November. It is highly recommended that you follow SCCE on Facebook (McMasterSCCE) for updates regarding upcoming co-op information sessions and application dates. All applicants require credit or registration in *SCIENCE 2C00*, in addition to [course requirements for the co-op program\(s\)](#) of their choice.

#### **Step 1: Apply online on OscarPlus with your cover letter, résumé and unofficial transcript**

- Log on to <http://www.oscarplumcmaster.ca> and apply to the co-op program(s) of your choice. You will need your résumé, unofficial transcript (downloaded from MOSAIC) and a cover letter detailing your interest in co-op and why you would be a good fit for the program.
- Your application will be reviewed by the Science Career and Cooperative Education office. Below is a list of what we will review:
  - **Cover Letter.** The cover letter will give you the opportunity to describe who you are and why you want to join a co-op program. You can also use the cover letter to inform us of any missing prerequisite courses, reasons as to why they are missing and when you plan to take them.
  - **Transcript.** A cumulative GPA that is over the minimum GPA cutoff stated in the undergraduate calendar does not guarantee you admission into a co-op program. Entrance into co-op is competitive and students in the past have typically had GPAs well above the cutoff. However, positive trends in your GPA (i.e. a noticeable improvement in your second year GPA compared to first) are looked upon favorably. For instructions on how to decrypt your transcript and upload it to OSCARplus, visit <http://ow.ly/Uq742>
  - **Résumé.** Review our [preferred résumé format](#) prior to uploading your résumé on OSCARplus (particularly important if you have not completed *SCIENCE 2C00* at the time of your application).
- **Step 2: Attend a co-op information session**
  - Following application review, selected candidates will be invited to attend a co-op information session. These information sessions will be held multiple times between November–February. You are required to attend **only one** of these information sessions.
- **Step 3: Interview**
  - After you have attended your information session, you will be invited to an interview designed to assess your employment readiness.
  - Final decisions will be made at the end of May, pending confirmation of your Level 2 marks. All applicants accepted into a co-op program will be notified of their acceptance via email.



Want to take a peek into the life of some of our co-op students as well as recent alumni? Look no further! Search for [Science Career & Cooperative Education](#) on YouTube and watch our “Meet a Co-op Student” and “Meet a Professional” series. Alternatively, you can visit [ow.ly/T4NhL](http://ow.ly/T4NhL) (case-sensitive) to view our page directly.