

# Workplace Learning Options

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## Work-based Learning

Work-based learning (formerly Co-op) is an academic class that allows students to gain practical work experience. Rather than attend class in a traditional classroom, students work with an employer in a position directly related to their field of study. Work-based learning is similar to an internship but students receive academic credit either as an elective or as a required class. By participating, students gain work experience that increases their ability to find career-related employment upon graduation. Employers have the opportunity to connect with students as faculty support them throughout the experience. Work-based learning experiences may be paid or unpaid.

### Eligibility

Students are accepted from various programs of study, provided they meet the following criteria:

1. Enrollment in a program of study which includes a WBL class as a required course or technical elective.
2. Minimum GPA requirements and successful completion of certain courses determined by the Program Chair or faculty adviser.
3. Recommendation to participate in the WBL class from the Program Chair or faculty adviser.
4. Approval to participate by the Workplace Learning office.
5. Students currently working in their field may be able to receive academic credit for the WBL class at their current job.

Please note that placement is not guaranteed for all eligible students. For more information,

- visit the Central Campus Workplace Learning Office in Terrell Building, Room 326,
  - call 704.330.6217, or
  - visit a website at: [workplace.learning@cpcc.edu](mailto:workplace.learning@cpcc.edu), or [cpcc.edu/workplacelearning](http://cpcc.edu/workplacelearning).
- Locations for Workplace Learning offices on all CPCC campuses are listed on the websites.

## Internships

Internships are flexible, non-credit bearing work experiences that allow students and recent graduates to gain exposure to their field. Internships enable students to further build related work experience and enhance their portfolios, and are an option in programs where work-based learning is unavailable. Upon successful completion of an internship, participants will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement.

Eligibility to participate in a non-credit internship varies based on the program of study. Please contact the Workplace Learning office for details.

## Apprenticeship Charlotte

Apprenticeship Charlotte is an unprecedented effort by CPCC to connect talented students to local employers. By combining classroom and workplace learning, both the employers and selected students share a valuable experience that produces immediate results. Students gain employment and valuable work experience. Employers often cover the cost of tuition, fees and books for apprentices, and many times offer

full-time employment upon successful completion of an apprenticeship. Employers benefit from having highly-skilled employees in positions that are difficult to fill. In North Carolina, formal or registered apprenticeships are created by agreements between employers and the N.C. Department of Commerce (NC DOC).

To learn more about participating in an apprenticeship, potential students should visit [cpcc.edu/workplacelearning](http://cpcc.edu/workplacelearning) or send an email to [workplace.learning@cpcc.edu](mailto:workplace.learning@cpcc.edu).