

**DO STUDENTS MISS OUT ON CAMPUS
ACTIVITIES BY CO-OPING?**

NO – Co-ops are full-time students while at work and receive all privileges of on-campus students.

**IS THE WORK SCHEDULE OF THE CO-OP
PROGRAM FLEXIBLE?**

YES – Examination of the co-op calendar shows that the placement of students is flexible so as to accommodate students with different class schedules. It also accommodates transfer students and students who enrolled at Alcorn the summer semester prior to the fall semester.

For additional information contact:

Mrs. Adrienne Willis
Director
awillis@alcorn.edu

Mrs. Alice Shannon
Secretary
ashannon@alcorn.edu

Office of Placement Services
James L. Bolden Campus Union Building, 2nd Floor
ASU Drive #540
Alcorn State, MS 39096
601-877-6325 (Office)
601-877-6324 (Fax)



Office of Career Services

A Division of Student Affairs



Cooperative Education (Co-op) Program

Adrienne Willis, Director

Office of Career Services
James L. Bolden Campus Union Building, 2nd Floor
ASU Drive #540
Alcorn State, MS 39096
601-877-6325 (Office)
601-877-6324 (Fax)
awillis@alcorn.edu

WHAT IS COOPERATIVE EDUCATION?

Cooperative Education is a professional development program which provides college students opportunities to integrate theoretical classroom study with practical on-the-job application. Students participating in the program are engaged in alternating periods of full-time on-campus study as part of their academic programs. The off-campus employment must be closely related and contributes significantly to the students' career goals. Academic credit hours are awarded for each work session and counts toward graduation. A minimum of two work sessions must be completed.

WHERE DO STUDENTS WORK?

Students may be placed with government agencies, businesses and industries for specific periods of time. While on the job, students receive assistance and guidance from professionals. Students are engaged in activities which enrich and strengthen their education and lead to personal and professional growth and development.

ARE STUDENTS PAID FOR THEIR SERVICES?

YES - In most cooperative education programs students are paid by the cooperating employer. At Alcorn State University all co-op students have received salaries commensurate to those of regular employees performing similar activities. Salaries are paid directly to the students. Many students open personal saving accounts and use some of their savings to defray part of their educational expenses. Earnings will vary based on academic major, employing agency, location, number of work periods, and experience. Some co-op students have earned as much as \$3,200 per month.

WHERE ARE CO-OP STUDENTS PLACED?

Co-op students have been placed in almost every state in the United States. Consideration is given to the geographical preference of students.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO THE STUDENTS?

- Theories learned in the classroom are applied on-the-job resulting in more meaningful learning and better retention.
- On-the-job experiences improve the students' motivation to learn; therefore, students usually do better academically after their co-op experiences.
- Students work with professionals and are exposed to sophisticated facilities and equipment, thereby obtaining first-hand knowledge which would be difficult to obtain on campus.
- Students are able to explore their career interest in actual on-the-job situations before making career choices.
- Students learn to assume responsibility and develop confidence in their abilities.
- By working in an adult environment, valuable lessons in human relations are learned.
- Co-op earnings help defray the cost of educational expenses of students.
- Co-op graduates usually receive higher starting salaries than their non co-op classmates.
- The permanent placement of graduates of a co-op program is much easier than the placement of non co-op graduates.
- Graduates of co-op programs usually begin their first job at a higher level on the occupational hierarchy than their non co-op classmates.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE CO-OP PROGRAM?

The program is optional and open to students majoring in all academic disciplines at Alcorn State University. Entering participants may be freshman, sophomores, juniors, or graduate students who are in good standing with the university.

Students who are qualified to participate in the program may be placed on the job after completing two semesters at Alcorn State University. Transfer students may be placed on the job after completing one semester at Alcorn. Students should sign up for the program as soon as possible after registering at Alcorn. A student may begin his work assignment during the summer, fall, or spring semester. See co-op calendar. Students are expected to complete at least two work periods which may include summers.

HOW DOES A STUDENT JOIN THE CO-OP PROGRAM?

- If a student is interested in, or just merely curious about the co-op program, the student should come by the Office of Placement Services or call and talk with one of our staff members.
- Each prospective co-op student must complete an application, and have a current copy of their university transcript on file.
- The student is interviewed by a co-op staff member to determine the student's suitability for the program.
- The student obtains approval of his/her department chairperson or major advisor.
- The student is interviewed by the employer, in most instances, at the job site or at the university.
- Successful students are placed on the job according to planned alternation periods.