

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education, UBC Okanagan: Annual Report 2022-2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education
Okanagan Campus



Interdisciplinary Co-op Education

Experiential education plays a pivotal role in the holistic academic experience at UBC Okanagan, aligning seamlessly with the transformative learning objectives outlined in the 2014 Aspire Vision, [UBC's Strategic Plan \(Shaping UBC's Century\)](#) and [Outlook 2040](#). Within this framework, Co-op Education empowers students to actively immerse themselves in hands-on learning experience while fostering dedicated reflection and personal growth.

The primary goal of this program is to cultivate meaningful connections – both with individuals and environments that broaden our perspectives, enrich our academic pursuits, and enhance our daily lives. Co-op students not only gain invaluable hands-on experience but also deepen their skills, advance new relationships and fortify their resilience and confidence. Co-op serves as a vibrant platform for fostering a sense of unity among diverse communities, all driven by a shared commitment to collaborative learning.

A fundamental objective of the program is to establish an interdisciplinary reflective learning curriculum that is accessible and inclusive to learners across the UBC Okanagan campus. The Interdisciplinary Co-op Education Program welcomes undergraduate students from various disciplines including Arts, Fine Arts, Human Kinetics/Health & Exercise Science, Management, Media Studies and Science.

The Interdisciplinary Co-op Education Program is an invitation to both students and employers to collaborate and foster relationships through work-integrated learning that benefits communities. Co-op employer partners consistently highlight the best feature of Co-op is the quality of applicants.

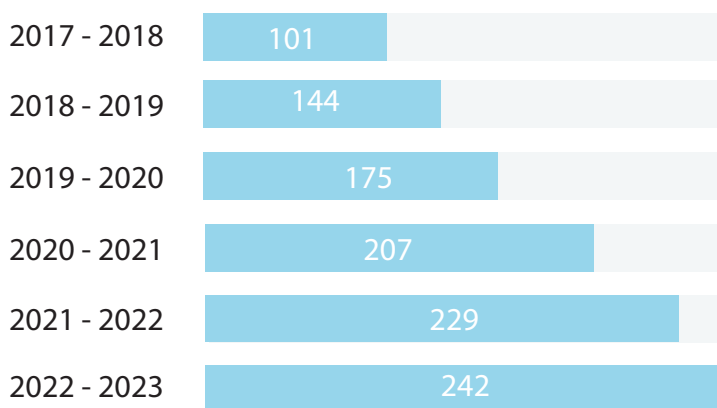
Co-op is a competitive program, with all applicants undergoing pre-screening, participating in a comprehensive career readiness curriculum, receiving continuous support and engaging in reflective activities throughout their Co-op work term experiences. These efforts instill workplace professionalism and equip students with the skills necessary for success in a wide range of work environments.



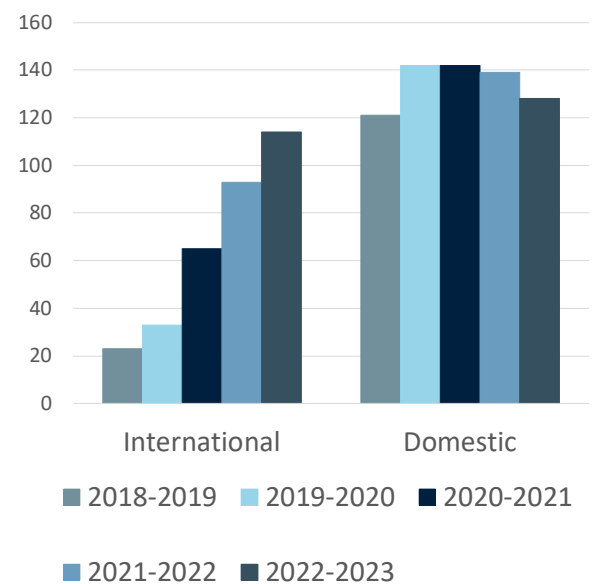
Annual Program Growth

During the annual 2022 Fall co-op application cycle, a total of 277 applications were received, ultimately admitting 242 students. This application season continued the program’s consistent growth trend and marked a noteworthy 5.68% increase in admissions. Notably we observed significant growth in admissions from the Science Program. In particular, students majoring in Computer Science, with a total of 47 securing spots in the Co-op Program. To equip all students for successful Co-op job search periods and to foster essential workplace professionalism and skills needed for diverse work environments, we have designed a comprehensive series of career readiness curriculum, engaging activities and relevant assignments. These initiatives are tailored to empower our students for future success.

UBC Okanagan Interdisciplinary Co-op Education Program Admissions Intake Growth Year over Year



Domestic & International Students



In tandem with UBCO’s increasing number of international students, representing 17% of the entire undergraduate student body, our global co-op student community continues to grow, now encompassing 40.6% of our enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year.



Co-op Student Trends

Students at UBC Okanagan continue to value Co-op learning opportunities in their post-secondary education. Co-operative work integrated learning serves as a vital bridge between academia and the professional world, affording students the invaluable opportunity to gain practical work experience, broaden their skill set, and cultivate essential personal qualities.

315 **2.94%**

Completed Work Terms
2022-23 Academic Year

Growth in Work Terms
2022-23 Academic Year

In the 2022-2023 academic year, international students contributed significantly to the Co-op work terms, accounting for 44.4% of the total, marking a remarkable 25% increase from the previous year. Their sustained commitment across various disciplines underscores their continued enthusiasm and success in the program.

44%

Total 2022-23 Co-op Work Terms
Completed by International Students

Faculty	2020-2021 Work Terms	2021-2022 Work Terms	2022-2023 Work Terms
Arts	33	42	58
Fine Arts	3	0	0
Management	56	77	65
Human Kinetics	11	14	6
Science	131	173	184
Media Studies	3	0	2
Totals	237	306	315

\$20.07 /hr

Average Hourly Wage Earned for
Interdisciplinary Co-op Students

Based on 2022-23 historical data



Projects & Program Development

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program Office continued its pursuit of program objectives, aimed at fostering an interdisciplinary program rooted in applied and reflective practice and enhancing access to learning opportunities across the UBC Okanagan campus.

Enhancements in Teaching & Learning Curriculum

Throughout 2022-23, the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program collaborated closely with the CTL and CTLT units to elevate and refine the integrated Work Term Curriculum. This collaborative effort yielded tangible progress in our program curriculum and enriched the knowledge repository available through our Co-op Learning Community Course on Canvas. This platform remains the central hub for resources, support, and interactive exercises designed to assist students throughout their journey in the Co-op Education Program.

Wine Industry Co-op Specialization Milestone

This year we concluded the 2-year-long Wine Industry Co-op pilot, marking the inception of UBC's first industry-specific co-op education program focused on the world of wine. This novel program equipped students with a deeper understanding of the wine industry, allowing them to gain invaluable experience in one of BC's most economically significant sectors. The Interdisciplinary Co-op Program Office, through this pilot venture, acquired significant insights, industry specific-expertise, and fostered ongoing partnerships with local busi-

Indigenous Student Engagement

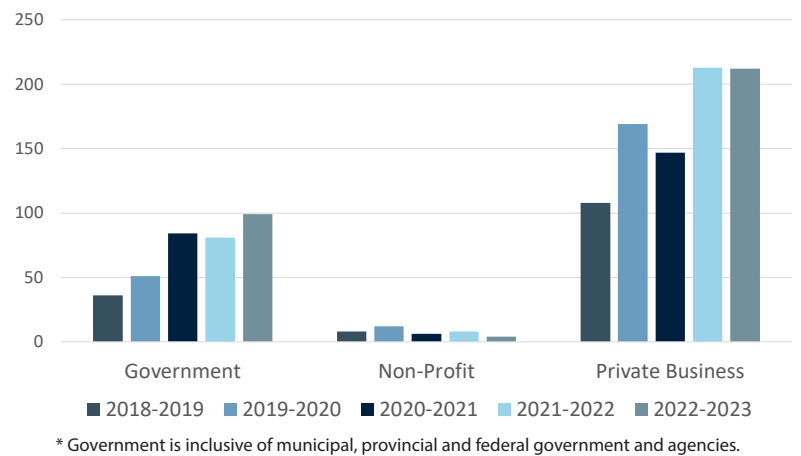
In 2021, the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program Office had the privilege of welcoming Sher Miller in the role of Indigenous Co-op Coordinator. Sher's contributions have been instrumental in extending support to Indigenous students campus-wide, with a commitment to facilitating equitable access to co-op and experiential learning programming. The Interdisciplinary Co-op Program Office remains committed to supporting and empowering Indigenous students to participate in work-integrated learning. This is reflected in Co-op Program Offices waiving of the co-op administration and workshop fees for all eligible Indigenous students. The objective is to increase the participation of Indigenous students within the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program, aiming to achieve an enrollment of 8% within domestic student admissions.



Co-op Community Partners

Out-of-province Co-op experience participation also grew significantly, increasing from 13.8 % in the 2021-2022 academic year to 24.13% for the 2022-2023 period. Moreover, there was a substantial 22.2% rise in co-op work experiences within the government, encompassing Federal, Provincial and Municipal sectors across Canada during this same year.

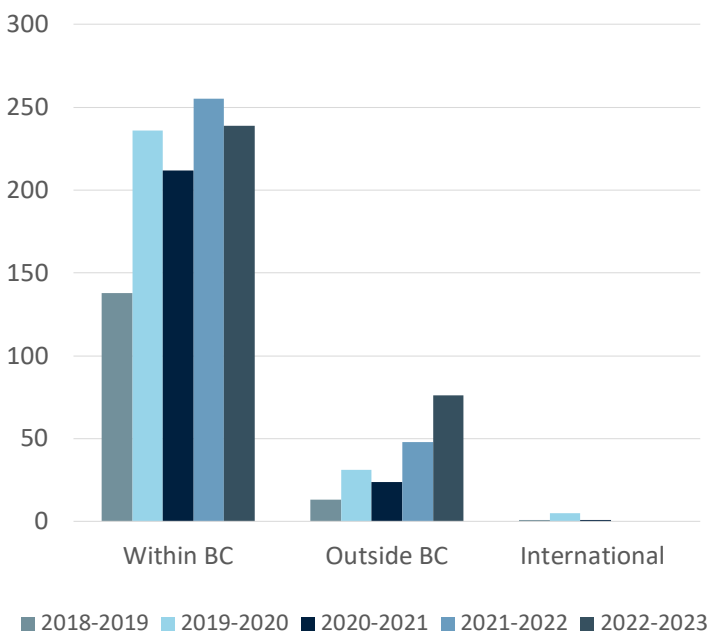
Employer Sector



“Our engagement with the UBC co-op program has been positive and impactful. This summer, our student not only integrated well into our team but also triggered improvements to our development processes. Our coop student was able to create material value for our clients, which is central to our consulting ethos. This collaboration bridged academia and practical work well, leading us to hire him as an associate consultant. I’d wholeheartedly recommend this program to other organizations. There are tangible benefits for all.”

- Clemens Rettich from Beaton | Rettich

Work Term Location



Faculty of Management – sponsoring Faculty

Sandy Hilton, Dean pro tem

Faculty Advisors include:

Myron Campbell: Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
Rebecca Frechette: School of Health and Exercise Science
Eric Li: Faculty of Management
Trudy Kavanagh: Faculty of Science
Bernard Momer: Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Interdisciplinary Co-op Program staff members:

Mandy Little, Co-op Coordinator
Morgan Marshall, Associate Coordinator
Meghan Reid, Co-op Coordinator
Jamie Snow, Associate Director Community Relations
Gabriel Tan, Co-op Administrator

University of British Columbia
Okanagan Campus
EME 2171 - 1137 Alumni Ave
Kelowna, BC Canada
V1V 1V7

Tel 250 807 9623
Email: coop.ok@ubc.ca
www.coop.ok.ubc.ca



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