

Policy on Cooperative Education Program (COOP)

Policy Owner	University Council
Policy Author	University Council and Career Services Center
Version	V 5.0
Issuing Authority	University President
Last Modified	06 th April 2023
Circulation	All Colleges, All Students
Effective Date	07 th July 2024 (<i>by the start of Summer semester 2023/2024</i>)
History	Reviewed and updated by the UC in its meeting on 19 th March 2024.

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1.0 Introduction

Al Yamamah University Cooperative Training Program is a robust program that aims to help students to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and to prepare the students for the transition into the work environment.

Therefore, Al Yamamah University has established the Career Services Center to implement the goals of that center and to provide Al Yamamah University students with the required support to accomplish their cooperative training in optimal ways, through an integrated network of companies and institutions that will work with the center to help the students get the essential knowledge and the professional skills needed in the workplace.

2.0 Objectives of Al Yamamah University Cooperative Training Program

- Initiate and acquire an actual practical work experience.
- Implement the knowledge gained in classrooms and link it to job-related practices.
- Develop interpersonal and professional skills.
- Enhance analytical, problem solving and decision-making skills.
- Determine clear career path interests.

3.0 Requirements and Eligibility

3.1 Minimum required credit hours completed to enroll in the program:

College	Required Credit Hours	
College of Business	All majors : 120 Cr. Hrs.	
College of Law	All majors : 90 Cr. Hrs.	
College of Engineering & Architecture	Architecture	90 Cr. Hrs.
	Software Engineering	
	Network Engineering and Security	
	Industrial Engineering	

3.2 Duration of Cooperative Training Program

To pass the Cooperative Training Program, students from all respective colleges should finish 24 weeks i.e. 6 Months. It should be in the individual students' major area of specialization and will require a full-time work commitment consistent with the weekly work- hour/work-day requirements of the organization/company wherein the coop is taking place. The Cooperative Training Program must be taken during two consecutive semesters: spring + summer, summer + fall or fall + spring. The Dean may give some exceptions to this rule, but they should be rare and very well justified.

3.3 Pre-requisites

In addition to finishing the required credit hours, all students must pass Career Skills course CSK001 and fulfill the college requirements to be eligible to enroll and pass the Cooperative Training Program.

3.4 Scheduling Restrictions

The COOP course should be taken alone. Students are not allowed to take other courses during the COOP training period **unless** it is a Senior Project, and if the Senior Project Course requires mandatory attendance, the number of lecture days will not be counted in the COOP duration.

3.5 Coop training Period Calculation:

Official calculation of the coop training period will be counted only after the students register the coop course in the university Edu gate System. Any period before the actual course registration will not be considered.

4. Regulations

4.1 Withdrawal and Changing Company Policy

Companies are committed to enable our students to pursue their training in the departments that match their area of studies. Therefore, changing companies after accepting the offer will be strictly prohibited unless it is approved by the company. Students will be asked to sign a ratification form of accepting all the policy terms and conditions.

Exceptions could be considered if the student justifies that with valid reasons, such as:

- Failure to meet the required training goals and objectives.
- Failure to commit to the obligations, including behavioral and ethical laws.
- Other special cases that will require different execution and committee discussion and approvals.

In such cases, the Career Services Center staff will investigate and provide the student with the required help accordingly. It may result in not counting the period student spent in the first company.

4.2 Fees and tuitions

Students are required to have the Finance department approval on registration for the Cooperative Training Program. To receive the approval students must pay 8,600 SAR.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Student

Student must be committed to the following:

- Submitting Three reports within the specified time frame as per the following:
 - ✓ The first progress report is due at the end of second month from the joining date of COOP (Deadline: Last day of Week 8 of the program);
 - ✓ The second progress report is due at the end of the fourth month from the joining date of COOP (Deadline: Last day of Week 16 of the program)
 - ✓ The final report is due at the end of the program (Deadline: Last day of Week 24 of the program).
- Demonstrating self-discipline in terms of daily attendance, dress code, code of conduct, completing the required working hours, and following the directions and the recommendations of the on-site supervisor, the COOP coordinators and CSC staff members.
- Reporting any COOP-related issues to CSC staff member or COOP coordinators.

5.2 Companies Criteria

Our students will benefit the most when they are placed in very-well established companies and have the opportunity to practice what they study in their undergraduate programs at Al Yamamah University. As a guiding principle for the COOP coordinator, the following company selection criteria should be observed for each college:

- A well-known company with a good reputation authorized and classified by the concerned government authorities, with proper safety measures.
- The training companies must be operating at least for 3 years from the establishment date.
- The core business of the company or, at least, the department in which the student is placed should be related to the student's specialization and academic background.
- The training companies must have an official website and accurate information.
- Family or self-owned business are not accepted.

College special requirement on companies' selection:

Students are advised to refer to the below checklist to ensure that the training company is meeting their colleges requirements:

College	Requirements
College of Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferably listed company. • Not less than 30 employees.
College of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company must be practicing law or must have the legal department. • Not less than 4 employees.
College of Engineering and Architecture – <i>Software and Network Engineering Majors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company must be specialized in one of the areas related to Network engineering and security or Software engineering (or related domain). • Not less than 10 Employees.

<p>College of Engineering and Architecture – <i>Architecture Major</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Contracting & Constructions companies classified according to Contractors’ Classification System (CCS)- Grade 1,2 and 3 are preferred.
<p>College of Engineering and Architecture – <i>Industrial Engineering</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry must be specialized related to Industrial Engineering major areas. The preferable areas can be Manufacturing, Design and Human Factors, Industrial Systems, and Operations & Management. • Industry should not have less than 30 employees.

5.3 Career Services Center Staff responsibilities

- Review the program applications from the students and process it, and forward them to the COOP coordinators.
- Accommodate students in companies, based on the approval of COOP coordinators, which guarantee the best training opportunities to the students, and provide COOP coordinators with updated lists of available COOP opportunities.
- Maintain an updated and accurate record of the students’ information and companies contact information, and share them with COOP coordinators.
- Provide the students, COOP coordinators and on-site supervisors with the needed support.

5.4 COOP Coordinators

Coop coordinators from all colleges will be the link between the Career Services Center and all academic-related matters to the COOP. Specifically, they will:

- a) Review and evaluate the progress reports and the final reports.
- b) Provide the students with advising and follow up on their performance and respond with recommendations and feedback.
- c) If needed, communicate with on-site supervisors to follow up on students' performance and any problems that students may have.
- d) Review and follow up on the final student evaluation from on-site supervisors.
- e) After the College Dean's approval, submit the final grade to the registration office in DARSA.
- f) Check and review the company profile wherein the coop will take place and seek the Dean's approval

5.5 On-site Supervisors

- a) Provide COOP students with a training plan reflecting the students' duties and scope of work.
- b) Follow the university rules and criteria in evaluation. CSC staff member will be communicating with the company supervisor to follow up and provide the needed information. Thus, it is preferable for the on-site supervisor to hold a degree in same or similar domain and must have solid experience in the same field of training being provided.
- c) Monitor the students' performance, attendance and report any related issue to CSC staff member.
- d) Read and approve students' progress reports.
- e) Fill and send the mid- and final evaluation forms to COOP coordinators.

5.6 Registration Office (Registrar)

View the grade that was submitted by the COOP coordinator with the approval of the Dean and insert it in students' academic transcript.

6. COOP Deliverables and Deadlines

Pre-COOP				
	Activity	Due Date	Sender	Receiver
1	Fill the COOP Application	Before the start of semester	Student	CSC
2	Send CV to companies	Before the start of semester	CSC	Companies
3	Obtain approval of the company	Before the start of semester	Student	COOP coordinator
4	Submit company's approval letter, coop plan and contact information	Before the start of semester	CSC/ Student	COOP coordinator
During COOP				
	Activity	Due Date	Sender	Receiver
4	Send students names to coop coordinators	After registering the Coop Course	CSC	COOP Coordinator
5	Submit first progress report	Upon completing 8th week from COOP start date	Student	COOP Coordinator
6	Submit second progress report	Upon completion of 16th week from COOP start date	Student	COOP Coordinator
Post-COOP				
	Activity	Due Date	Sender	Receiver
7	Submit final COOP report	Upon completion of	Student	COOP Coordinator
8	Send the company final evaluation form	After the COOP has been completed	COOP Coordinator	On-site
9	Submit the final grade	After receiving all reports from the student and the on-site supervisor.	COOP Coordinator	Registrar

7. Evaluation Criteria and Grading

The assessment of the COOP will be based on the following breakdown of grade:

On-site Supervisor		COOP Coordinator	
Component	Weight	Component	Weight
Attendance	10%	Progress report 1	15%
Communication & interpersonal skills Positive attitude/ ethical & social skills	10%	Progress report 2	15%
Analytical/problem solving skills	10%	Final Report	40%*
Total Grade: 30		Total Grade: 70	

The grading System adopted will be according to YU. The assessment of the program will be “**Pass (P) and Fail (NP)**”, whereby students will be given “**P**” if he/she earned 60 marks or more and “**NP**” if he/she earned less than 60 marks.

7.1 Penalties on Students’ Deliverable Delays

Deliverable Name	Penalties
Progress Report 1 and 2	-1 week delay will lead to 5 marks deduction. -2 weeks delay will lead to 5 marks deduction. -3 weeks delay will lead to 5 marks deduction. -more than 3 weeks 0 will be awarded.
Final report	Students are given 4 weeks after the last training day to write the final report. Any student fails to submit the final report after this deadline, 0 grade will be awarded.

8. Notes on Writing Reports and Statement on Plagiarism

- Use of the official template to write the progress reports. This template will be provided by CSC staff. In the progress reports, it will be required to mention attendance, tasks accomplished, tasks planned to be accomplished and remarks.
- Use of the official template to write the final report. This template will be provided by CSC staff and will be available to download on the YU web site. It must be ensured to add a cover page, outline, COOP plan, major tasks accomplished, the problems identified, as well as suggestions, solutions, and experience gained.
- Other necessary grading and assessment forms will be provided by CSC Office to whom it may concern and as the needs arise, and will be available to download on the YU web site.

Statement on Plagiarism

The definition of plagiarism is ‘to copy, use or reproduce others’ works or ideas.’ Plagiarism is considered as cheating whether its intentional or unintentional. Your source of information will be checked by your advisors and if an incident of plagiarism is discovered, the incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students’ Affairs and the Dean of the College and further to that action will be taken. COOP students that breach the plagiarism code will receive “**F**” for the COOP final grade.

9. Dismissal Policy

This policy is applied to ensure the best performances and practices of the students during their COOP. In case of any abuse or misuse of the policy terms and conditions, or failure to maintain the roles and responsibilities delineated in this policy, or in case the company reports behavioral or professional problems, CSC staff will issue a warning to the student. If the student repeats the same action, a YU Disciplinary Committee headed by the Dean of Students’ Affairs will meet and decide based on the submitted evidence and investigations. The University retains the right to dismiss the student from the program, in case of confirmation of allegations.

10. Prior Work Experience

COOP is mandatory for all students. No prior experience will be counted towards fulfilling the COOP requirements.

Exceptions:

The University Council reserves the right to decide on any situation/ circumstances outside the conditions stated in this policy.

Authorization:

This Policy was authorized by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

University President

Date: 21-4-2024