

## Rating for Cooperative Education

If you participated in the Cooperative Education Program, how would you rate your Co-op assignment in terms of its *value* and *relevance* to your area of study?

**Value:**

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor

**Relevance:**

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor

- Nearly 38 percent (217) of all respondents and 51 percent (162) of career technical respondents had participated in Cooperative Education.
- Nearly 56 percent of all respondents who had participated in Cooperative Education indicated the *value* (Table 33) of their experience was “very good” and 58 percent indicated the *relevance* of their experience (Table 34) was “very good.”
- Approximately 80 percent of all respondents who had participated in Cooperative Education indicated both the value and relevance of their experiences were “good” or “very good.”

### Interpretation/Analysis

Most respondents found their cooperative work experiences to be rewarding, both professionally and personally.

Four themes emerged from the comments about the Cooperative Education experience. Cooperative Education

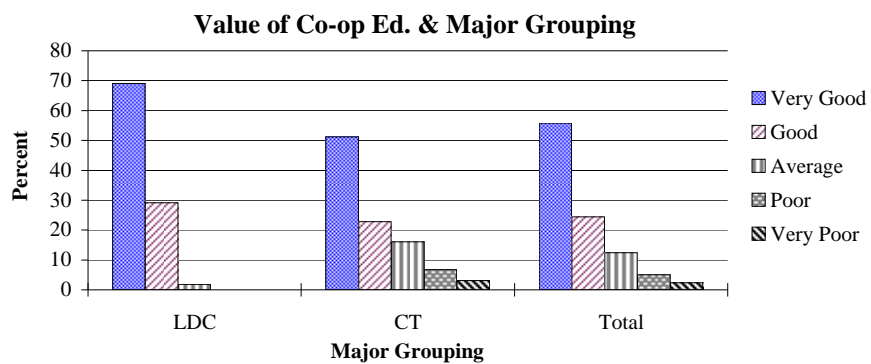
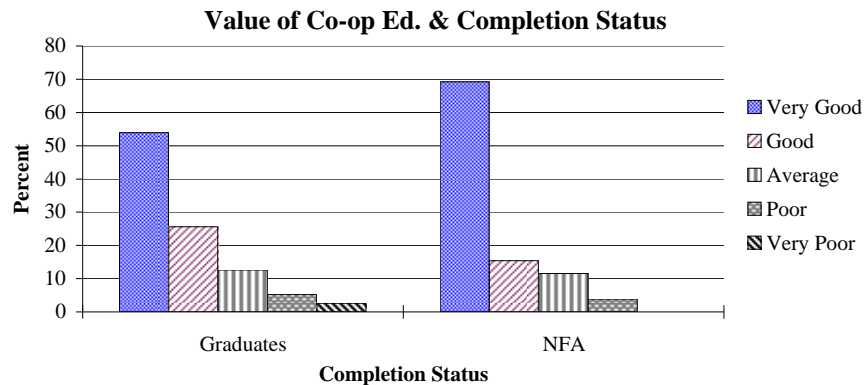
- Prepared students for real-life jobs.
- Opened doors to new jobs.
- Helped respondents find what interested them.
- Provided an enjoyable experience.

Representative comments begin on page 62.

**Table 33: Value of Cooperative Education** (Co-op Ed. Respondents)

Value of Co-op Ed.	Completion Status				Major Grouping				Total	
	Graduates		NFA		LDC		CT			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very Good	103	53.9	18	69.2	38	69.1	83	51.2	121	55.8
Good	49	25.7	4	15.4	16	29.1	37	22.8	53	24.4
Average	24	12.6	3	11.5	1	1.8	26	16.0	27	12.4
Poor	10	5.2	1	3.8	-	-	11	6.8	11	5.1
Very Poor	5	2.6	-	-	-	-	5	3.1	5	2.3
Total	191	100.0	26	100.0	55	100.0	162	100.0	217	100.0

Example: The percentage of graduate respondents who participated in Co-op Ed. and rated the value of their Co-op Ed. experience as "very good" was 53.9%.



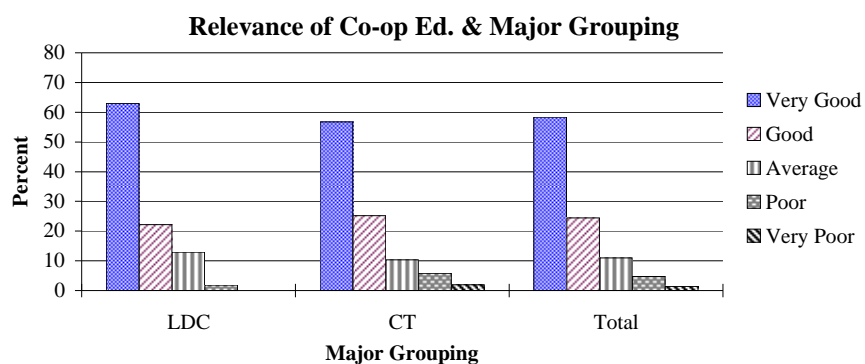
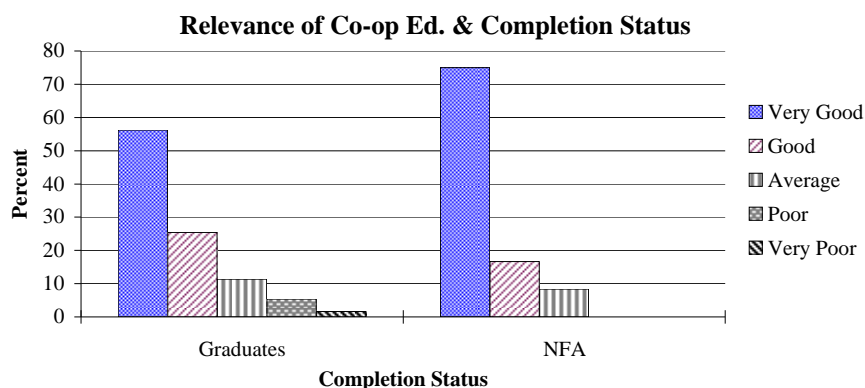
Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.

**Table 34: Relevance of Cooperative Education** (Co-op Ed. Respondents)

Relevance of Co-op Ed	Completion Status				Major Grouping				Total	
	Graduates		NFA		LDC		CT			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Very Good	104	56.2	18	75.0	34	63.0	88	56.8	122	58.4
Good	47	25.4	4	16.7	12	22.2	39	25.2	51	24.4
Average	21	11.4	2	8.3	7	13.0	16	10.3	23	11.0
Poor	10	5.4	-	-	1	1.9	9	5.8	10	4.8
Very Poor	3	1.6	-	-	-	-	3	1.9	3	1.4
Total	185	100.0	24	100.0	54	100.0	155	100.0	209	100.0

Example: The percentage of graduate respondents who participated in Co-op Ed and rated the relevance of their Co-op Ed. experience as "very good" was 56.2%.



Respondents are represented three times:

- Once in Completion Status as either a graduate or NFA (no formal award).
- Secondly in Major Grouping as either LDC (lower division collegiate transfer) or CT (career technical).
- A third time in the total.

## **Cooperative Education Comments**

Former Lane students commented that their Cooperative Education experiences:

### **Prepared Respondents for Real-Life Jobs**

- \* *My co-op experience was amazing! I learned a great deal about my area of study, and about working in an office. I feel that it was truly up to me to decide what I wanted to learn during my co-op education. That made the experience both more challenging and more rewarding.*
- \* *I believe the co-op experience that I had was priceless in terms of my education and experience for future career in this field.*
- \* *Co-op helped me gain confidence in my chosen field.*
- \* *Paramedic internship was critical to my skill development, and well handled.*
- \* *My co-op experience was very helpful. It helped me to gain experience in my field of study. I would say, it was one of the best parts in my experience at Lane.*
- \* *Co-op was the best part! Real world practice while at school.*

### **Opened Doors to Jobs**

- \* *Great program and led to a current job*
- \* *Ended up getting hired after internship*
- \* *The hands on experience was wonderful. They trusted me to have the skills necessary to "hit the ground running" which I did and It resulted in a position with the company after graduation. The amount of hours required within the time given was the only negative.*
- \* *The co-op served as essentially a job interview. Two weeks after it ended, I was offered a full time position at the company, even without completing the degree program.*
- \* *Good experience, work there now!*
- \* *Led me to my present job, very satisfied*

## **Helped both Lower Division Collegiate and Career Technical Respondents Find What Interested Them**

- \* *I succeeded in obtaining 2 degrees (accounting & admin. asst.) therefore I participated in two Cooperative Education Programs. Both gave me a better understanding of what I could expect in that field of business; it helped me decide which I preferred to work in.*
- \* *It is a good way to see what is expected from us when we look for a job in that field. Could be required a little bit earlier on in the coursework so you could do see sooner what you need to do and get a better idea if you want to actually go in to that field*
- \* *After my first term at LCC I decided I wanted to go into the Social Service field. I did 2 internships in that field + 1 as a high school soccer coach. It was extremely valuable to get that work experience in because I was able to sneak in the backdoor of the agencies I would not have been able to get in at otherwise aside from earning a degree in the field...and while there I discovered I didn't like the office environment or that field of work at ALL, so I totally changed my plans. So I'm very glad for that opportunity to intern through the Coop program.*

## **Provided an Enjoyable Experience**

- \* *I had an extremely positive co-op experience. Very rewarding and learned a lot.*
- \* *Both placements were valuable in learning how the pros work, gaining experience, and getting to know people in the community.*
- \* *Extremely important as a nursing student as our clinical time was quite limited*
- \* *My co-op experience was great. It was very relevant to my career choice and study and I learned a lot while participating.*
- \* *Great experience and an important part of the program!*

**A small percentage of respondents** expressed some disappointment and/or frustration with their Cooperative Education experiences as the following comments indicate:

- \* *We were not given much help finding possible internships -- setting everything up, getting leads on which businesses would accept interns, etc.*
- \* *I was given a very passive role because of my non-employee status. Therefore my contribution was very marginal.*
- \* *Could have been more supervision*
- \* *The place was a great work environment and employed after the fact but the work didn't expand knowledge in the chosen field*
- \* *Would have appreciated more help from my co-op advisor in locating possible co-op positions. Ended up doing all of the legwork in finding positions that would give me some of the experience that I thought I would need in my chosen field.*