

The Associate Dean of Work-Integrated Learning supports co-op and experiential learning within undergraduate programs, graduate programs, and lifelong learning and professional development opportunities across the Faculty.

Undergraduate WIL

Co-op Employment

First-work-term students sometimes struggle to find a co-op job. The WE Accelerate program, offered through CEE, was established during the pandemic to provide students with a skills development opportunity. In the last year, 28 ENV students have participated in the program:

- Spring 2023: 10
- Winter 2024: 18

Bridging Entrepreneurs to Students (BETS), offered through Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business, is another pathway to support first-work term students. In the Winter 2024 term, the Faculty has supported two ENV students in this program.

Rates:

- Spring 2023: 94.4%
- Fall 2023: 99.0%
- Winter 2024: 96.9%

Employment Satisfaction

Students report their satisfaction with their co-op work term experience, rating this on average 8.39/10 in 2023, a rating that has remained consistently stable since 2017.

Co-op Job Boards

Adapting to the needs of both students and employers in the recruitment process, changes to the co-op job boards were recently made to improve the visibility of co-op jobs to students seeking employment. This included the launch of the Employer-Student Direct job board, which offers a repository for pre-approved co-op jobs for the upcoming work term as well as for future work terms.

Environment Co-op LEARN Community

In Winter 2024, the Environment Co-op Community launched on LEARN with more than 1,800 Environment co-op students enrolled. The LEARN community aims to serve Environment co-op students with an online resource that is easy to access and navigate, and is an engagement tool to address the needs of co-op students at different points in the term.

Skills Articulation Workshops

In collaboration with Co-operative and Experiential Education and the Centre for Work-Integrated Learning (WIL), a custom skills online workshop for Environment students was piloted in ERS 101 last term to help students identify the skills they're developing both inside and outside of the classroom

throughout their undergraduate career. Students learn to recognize and identify their skills and develop strategies for expressing these skills to a target audience (e.g., potential employers). We are continuing to work with the Centre for WIL to identify new avenues to broaden the offering of the custom skills online workshop to more students across the Faculty.

Awards and Honourable Mentions

- Co-op Student of the Year for the Faculty of Environment (2023):
 - [Avery Sudsbury](#), 4B, Environment and Business (Employer: Region of Waterloo)
- Co-op Student of the Year, Honourable Mention for Environment:
 - [Ivy Wang](#), 4A, Planning (Employer: CanmetENERGY)

GradWIL

The University's efforts are ongoing to develop GWIL experiences that leverage our expertise and leadership in WIL writ large. These efforts include experiences for graduate students in Co-op, Internships, Community/Industry Research Partnerships, and Central WIL/Applied Research. The Master of Climate Change (MCC) pilot is ongoing, and the first internship cycle coordinated through CEE is for Spring 2024. The team did a lot of great work to make this happen. Special thank you to Dan Scott, Teresa Wilson and Chantal Godin. CWIL has recently developed WIL 611, a co-curricular experience that seeks to operationalize the Central WIL/Applied Research pathway as an interdisciplinary consulting course. Derek Rayside (ENG) and Michael Wood (ENV) are the instructors of record for Spring 2024.

Lifelong Learning and Professional Development

WatSpeed is the University's academic support unit tasked with developing and commercializing lifelong learning and professional development. We continue to explore how best to engage with WatSpeed as a Faculty. Should you have any questions, please reach out at your convenience.