

Mentorship Virtual Coop 120

Learn without limits by connecting to real experts in the field

What is it?

Mentorship Virtual Coop 120 is a one-period coop program where you work from school with the support and guidance of an offsite mentor who has experience in a field you want to explore.

What do I do? / Where do I go?

You'll complete the coop course, but for your placement you'll develop a program of study with your teacher and mentor to study things of particular interest to you. You'll work in the coop classroom, where distance courses take place, or from another spot in the school.

What do I get?

You'll earn a credit towards graduation in Cooperative Education 120, but that's just the beginning. Your mentor will expose you to what's happening in their field and help you uncover your passion in relation to it. What you want to do will evolve and the program will change with you. Many students who have already participated have had unique opportunities open up along the way.

What does a typical week look like?

Initially you'll work on the coop content, then you'll partner with a mentor. You'll connect with your mentor a few times each week. Through video chat, phone calls, texts and email, you'll share your progress and receive feedback to focus your studies. Research, preparing presentations, developing training, designing experiments, and more – anything is possible.

How will this help me?

You'll gain access to mentors that may not otherwise be available in your community. You'll work on content that's current, relevant and meaningful. You'll develop a better understanding of what it takes to get where you want to go, and you'll develop a relationship with a mentor who can help you check your ideas against the reality of their daily work.

How do I sign-up?

Contact the your coop or guidance teacher.

If you would like to learn more, please contact:

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New Brunswick
Nouveau Brunswick



Role of the mentor

The procedures to be followed for Mentorship Virtual Coop will require teachers to articulate assignments and projects to be addressed by students in consultation with their mentor. Although mentors will communicate required content knowledge, the onus of responsibility is on the student to incorporate content knowledge into the assignments. The teacher will be responsible for all assessment, except for the Mentorship Student Appraisal to be completed near the end of the semester.

When starting the Mentorship Virtual Coop process, it is difficult to assign a specific project as this course is designed to be personalized/individualized, based on student interest(s). The objective of Mentorship Virtual Coop is to personalize student learning through ongoing collaboration with their mentor, to create an awareness that will better prepare students for post-secondary and future employment opportunities. Students require subject matter expertise from their mentor to align and focus assignments on real life workplace/career situations. Examples of assignments are as follows:

- Students interview potential mentor with 6-10 insightful questions and prepare a training plan as per discussion with the mentor. (What they would like to do/ know keeping with what the mentor is willing to offer.)
- Students discuss with their mentor the values & beliefs held within their mentor's workplace/company i.e. mission statement of company as it relates to day to day operations & communication between employees.
- Students complete a career research paper, journals, assignments, physical and e-portfolio as detailed in the course syllabus. Students will use the knowledge gained/learned from their mentor as well as material they research, to complete their course assignments.

How it works

- Mentor agrees to participate in weekly virtual mentoring, including e-mail, phone and virtual contact.
- Coop teacher and mentor meet virtually to discuss the student and Mentoring Virtual Coop.
- Mentor receives copies of the course syllabus and associated materials.
- Student and mentor meet virtually and establish contact times and protocols.
- Student works through the learning assignments, seeking information and feedback from the mentor.
- Mentors are encouraged to augment Coop assignments to increase authenticity and rigor.
- Mentors are a resource for students investigating career options.
- Mentors provide subject matter expertise.
- Mentors communicate and coordinate with the Coop teacher(s) concerning the assignments/tasks students will address/complete during the virtual placement.
- All communication is virtual-mentors setup convenient times (around the mentor's schedule to mentor student(s)).

What's not required of the mentor

- Teaching (the mentor shares their workplace experience/ expertise)
- Student supervision/discipline
- Providing curriculum and assignments
- Time beyond the established contact time for mentoring and feedback

Becoming a mentor

If interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Ransford Lockhart.