

BUILD YOUR SKILLS  
& CONFIDENCE

TEST YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
REAL WORLD

# TAKE THE CO-OP TOUR

BECOME ACTIVELY  
INVOLVED IN YOUR  
OWN LEARNING

EXPAND THE WALLS  
OF YOUR  
CLASSROOM

TRY ON A NEW  
EXPERIENCE

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Experiential Learning Program at Virginia Highlands Community College is an academic program for credit designed to provide a work-based learning experience. Each work experience represents a partnership among students, VHCC, and regional employers. Cooperative Education students are paid and work at job sites in positions related to their future career goals. The typical workweek is 5-25 hours depending upon the number of academic credits to be earned. Students in specific curricula may also take advantage of the co-op internship program (without pay). Work-based learning combined with classroom theory serves to enhance the development and professional preparation of the experiential learning student.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Students may obtain an application and get additional information about this academic program for credit from Richard W. Hutton, VHCC Cooperative Education Program Leader in LRC-708. Students who register for co-op should also request the *Experiential Learning: Cooperative Education and Internship Handbook*.

## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

“Working to Learn: Learning to Work”

## ADVANTAGES TO THE STUDENT

- ◆ Opportunity to realistically test career objectives, clarify career goals, and provide academic motivation.
- ◆ Opportunity to develop ‘foundation skills’ and ‘workplace competencies.’
- ◆ Opportunity to integrate classroom theory and workplace practice.
- ◆ Opportunity to earn college credit, earn an income (unless co-op internship), and gain valuable job search skills.
- ◆ Opportunity to improve after-graduation employment by gaining valuable work experience and potential future employer contact.

## ELIGIBILITY

Students must be enrolled in a curriculum at Virginia Highlands Community College to be eligible to participate in the cooperative education/internship program. Prospective students must have a minimum number of college credits, have at least a 2.0 curriculum GPA, and be employed or employable. Students may enroll for credit as part of curriculum studies or as add-on credit. Associate degree students are encouraged to participate for two semesters. Specific co-op guidelines for individual curricula are noted in the program requirements section of the VHCC Catalog. The opportunity for experiential learning with academic credit is available in most business, engineering and industrial, public service program of study areas.