

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION IN CANADIAN POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Geraldine H. Van Gyn

Professor, University of Victoria, Canada

Abstract

Cooperative education has become an integral part of post-secondary education in Canada. The predominant view is that cooperative education is an effective educational strategy and is a necessary part of the future of higher education. With the shift to a knowledge-based / learning communities economy, the role of program models, such as cooperative education that support continuous, contextualized learning, will continue to be critical to the education of Canadian citizens. The demand for co-op by post-secondary students and by employers continues to be very strong. This demand has resulted in some institutions in restrictive entry standards based on grades and it is anecdotally true that the ‘best and brightest’ students make up the cooperative education population.