

University of Cincinnati: Overview of Co-op and ELCE

Division of Experience Based Learning and Career Education (ELCE)



Herman Schneider (1872-1939), former President of the University of Cincinnati, founded the first Cooperative Education system in North America in 1906 at the University of Cincinnati. In the early years, students alternated between a day of classes and a day at work. Students then worked and studied alternating monthly.

Students in the Bachelor of Urban Planning program co-op a total of five semesters, beginning spring semester of their second year. Students in the Master of Community Planning program complete a co-op experience during the summer between their first and second years in the two-year program.

ELCE faculty oversee the co-operative education program, which include classroom teaching, student advising, and meeting with students to reflect on their co-op work experience. Faculty involved with co-op number total 41. Additionally, there are 10 people involved with employer relations, eight administrators, and 10 support staff.

Co-op Framework: Resources

ELCE Leadership

Gigi Escoe, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Dean

Helen Chen, Associate Provost and Executive Director

Jeremy Harvey, Director of Business Affairs

Michelle Clare, Senior Director, Partnership Development, Career Education, and Communications

Cindy Damschroder, Senior Director, Academic Operations

Location: Steger Student Life Center, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

Co-op Framework: DAAP

Co-op Advisors: Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP)

Frederick Lutt, Associate Professor, Urban Planning, Community Planning MA, Landscape Architecture MA

Cindy Damschroder, Senior Director and Associate Professor, Interior Design. DAAP Team Leader

Emily Flannery, Assistant Director and Assistant Professor, Fashion Design

Lisa Barlow, Associate Professor, Communications Design

Aaron Bradley, Associate Professor, Creative, Culture, and Social Impact Initiatives

Brianna Bailey, Assistant Professor, Communication Design

Maureen Buri, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts

Kimberley Burke, Assistant Professor, Architecture and Interior Design

Alexander Christoforidis, Associate Professor, Architecture

Beth Anne Herrin, Assistant Professor, Industrial Design

Co-op Framework: Advisor Position - Frederick Lutt

Frederick Lutt entered academia after 33 years as a practicing registered landscape architect (RLA) and certified planner (AICP) to take a full-time Educator faculty position at the University of Cincinnati in the Division of Experiential Learning and Career Education (ELCE).

His position requires classroom teaching, individual advising, and placement services for these three programs in the School of Planning (SOP):

- Bachelor of Urban Planning (BUP; 120 student co-ops per year)
- Master of Community Planning (MCP; 20 student co-ops per year)
- Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA; 5 student co-ops per year)

He coordinates his work with ELCE Administration, SOP Director and faculty, and academic advisors. He publishes a weekly email notice to this group regarding placements and positions.

Pre - Co-op

PD2091 Applied Profession Practice

1 credit – Fall Semester

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to effectively participate in the Professional Practice (co-op) Program of the University of Cincinnati. The course covers the following areas:

- Career exploration, career planning, and self-assessment
- Exploration of the profession of urban planning
- Overview of co-op opportunities
- Writing and designing an effective resume and cover letter
- Creating an effective portfolio
- Creating Linked In account for resume and portfolio
- Job search strategies and informational interviewing
- Typical interview questions and answers, and effective interview strategies
- Networking strategies and opportunities: meetings, volunteering, writing, committees
- Professional organizations and networking: APA
- Procedures and rules of the Professional Practice (coop) Program
- Self-directed learning while on coop

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate an understanding of:

- the breadth of the profession of urban planning
- effective resume and portfolio design
- networking strategies and opportunities
- job search strategies and informational interviewing
- the procedures and rules of coop
- self-directed learning

Co-op Framework: BUP Students' Process

Co-op

- Students work full time (450 hours per semester, minimum 10 weeks).
- Positions are typically paid (may choose unpaid work).
- Work is discipline - specific.
- Students meet with their employer to set individual goals at the beginning of the co-op semester and reflect on meeting those goals in their student report.

Post - Co-op

- Employers give students feedback in an employer report and in an end-of- semester meeting.
- Students submit a Student Report
- Students are required to meet with their co-op advisor to discuss their work experience and reflect on their student and employer reports.
- Co-op is in the degree audit, transcribed, and part of student's academic record.

Co-op Systems: Professional Assessment & Learning (PAL)

PAL landing page:

