LAURIER
Inspiring Lives.

First-Year Information Session - Arts & Science

What is Co-op?

- Hands-on, practical work experience

- Optional program

- Available to students in Honours Arts or Science programs

Benefits of participating in the Co-op program

- Helps to clarify your career path

- Fundamentals Course
  - Assists with skills development – eg. hard/soft skills and learn valuable job search skills

- Personal assistance from a Co-ordinator

- Access to postings - Navigator

Eligibility for Arts & Science

- Enrolled in any Honours Arts/Science program within the Faculty of Arts or Science
- Have a 1st year GPA (Grade Point Average) of B- (7.0) overall, or C+ (6.5) overall with a B- (7.0) in your major
- Enrolled in **and** maintain full time studies (4 courses)

Application Process

Stage 1 – Applicants to Arts and Science Co-op need an overall GPA of at least 7.0 in first year, or a GPA of at least 7.0 in their honours discipline courses and at least 6.5 overall

Application deadline is:
                    Monday, September 9, 2019

Stage 2 – Students are contacted in the summer via their "mylaurier" email account about the Co-op admission interview. Students submit resume to the Co-op Office 24 hrs before their interview, your resume will need to include contact information (names, phone number and email address) as well as start and end dates for any work and volunteer experiences.

Stage 3 – Coordinators select successful applicants

Arts & Science Work/Study Sequence

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Work/Study Sequence

Term	Fall (Sept-Dec)	Winter (Jan-April)	Spring (May-Aug)
Year 1	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 2	Study Term Fundamentals	Study Term Fundamentals	Work Term #1
Year 3	Study Term	Study Term	Work Term #2
Year 4	Study Term	Study Term	Graduate

Applied Water Science

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- May apply for admission to co-op at the beginning of their second year

- Those who achieve a minimum overall GPA of 7.0 at the end of year one will be eligible for a co-op admission interview

- Students admitted to co-op will require five calendar years to meet their degree requirements and will be scheduled to complete two eight-month work terms between year three and five.

Applied Water Science Work/Study Sequence

Term	Fall (Sept-Dec)	Winter (Jan-April)	Spring (May-Aug)
Year 1	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 2	Study Term	Study Term Fundamentals	Summer Vacation
Year 3	Study Term	Work Term #1 (8 months)	
Year 4	Study Term	Study Term	Work Term #2 (8 months)
Year 5	Work term Continues	Study Term	

Computer Science & Data Science

- May apply for admission to co-op at the beginning of their second year

- Those who achieve a minimum overall GPA of 7.0 at the end of year one will be eligible for a co-op admission interview

- Students must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 7.0 at the end of 2A to be eligible for co-op.

- Interviews will take place during your Fall 2A term and decisions shared at the beginning of Winter term (2B)

CS & DS Work/Study Sequence

Term	Fall (Sept-Dec)	Winter (Jan-April)	Spring (May-Aug)
Year 1	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 2	Study Term	Study Term Fundamentals	Study Term
Year 3	Work Term #1	Study Term	Work Term #2
Year 4	Study Term	Work term #3	Study Term

Professional Experience Program (PEP)

Term	Fall (Sept-Dec)	Winter (Jan-April)	Spring (May-Aug)
Year 1	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 2	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 3	Study Term Fundamentals	Study Term Fundamentals	Work Term Begins
Year 4	WT Continued	WT Continued	WT Continued
Year 5	Study Term	Study Term	

Competitive Admissions Process

During the co-op interview you are evaluated on:

1. Volunteer and extracurricular activities (senior year of high school and first year of university)
2. Previous work experience
3. GPA
4. Admission interview performance

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The Interview

- We will consider the quality of all your answers when evaluating your interview performance.

- Your ability to communicate your skills and accomplishments is a key component of the interview.

- We consider your ability to be concise and stay within the 15 minutes allotted when assessing your interview performance.

- When telling us how you have developed certain skills, we encourage you to use examples from various experiences.

- At the end of the interview we will ask you to tell us anything you wish to add in support of your application. Be sure to tell us about any accomplishments or experience you have not had an opportunity to mention earlier.

The Interview

- We assess what candidates communicate in the interview, not items listed on the resume.
- We don't consider activities you're going to do (only what you've done up until the end of O-week.)
- Most students choose Laurier in part because of co-op; we are not able to consider this as reason to admit students.
- Selection is based equally on all 4 categories, lack of experience in one category is a challenge

The STAR Method

- **STAR**

  SITUATION – provide a good framework, why it was a challenging situation

  TASK – the problem / task at hand that needs to be solved

  ACTION – the steps YOU took in detail

  RESULT! – the end result; was it successful?

- Make sure your answer has a beginning, a middle and an end

The Interview

- Depending on the program you have applied for, the timeline for results will vary
    - Arts & Science – Early Fall
    - CS/DS/AWS – Late Fall
- Competitive
    - 200-300 applicants
    - 90-100 admitted

Fundamentals Schedule ex. A&S

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September / October Welcome Information session Navigator session Resume and cover letter workshops Resumes due for review	**February** Interviews begin Job postings continue
November / December Job search workshop Personal job search begins Speaker's Series	**March** Work term preparation workshop Job postings and interviews continue
January Interview skills workshop, mock Interviews Job postings begin Rank/match sessions	**April / May / June** Personal job search Job postings and interviews continue **Summers:** Work term report and visit by co-

Fundamentals Course

- Additional course requirement *on top of* your regular course load
- Receive academic credit on a pass/fail basis
- Although more work, it is valuable and will help get you prepared

Realities of Co-op

- Employment rate
  - 90%, but most not until June
  - 50% secured in early April
- Relocation for the work-term
- Job search
  - Navigator & personal search
  - Balance between the two and support from your coordinator
- Types of Roles
  - Limitations (education, clinics, etc)
- Required time and effort
- Co-op fees/salaries

Student Employment – Employment Sectors
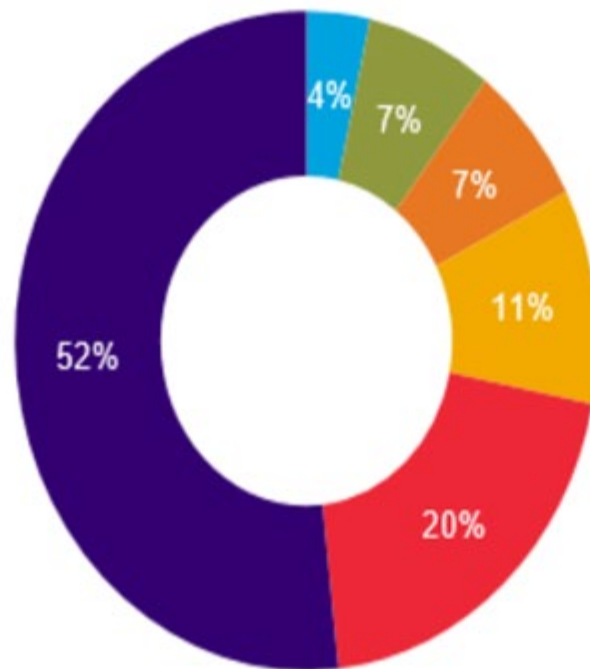
Student Employment – Geographic Areas
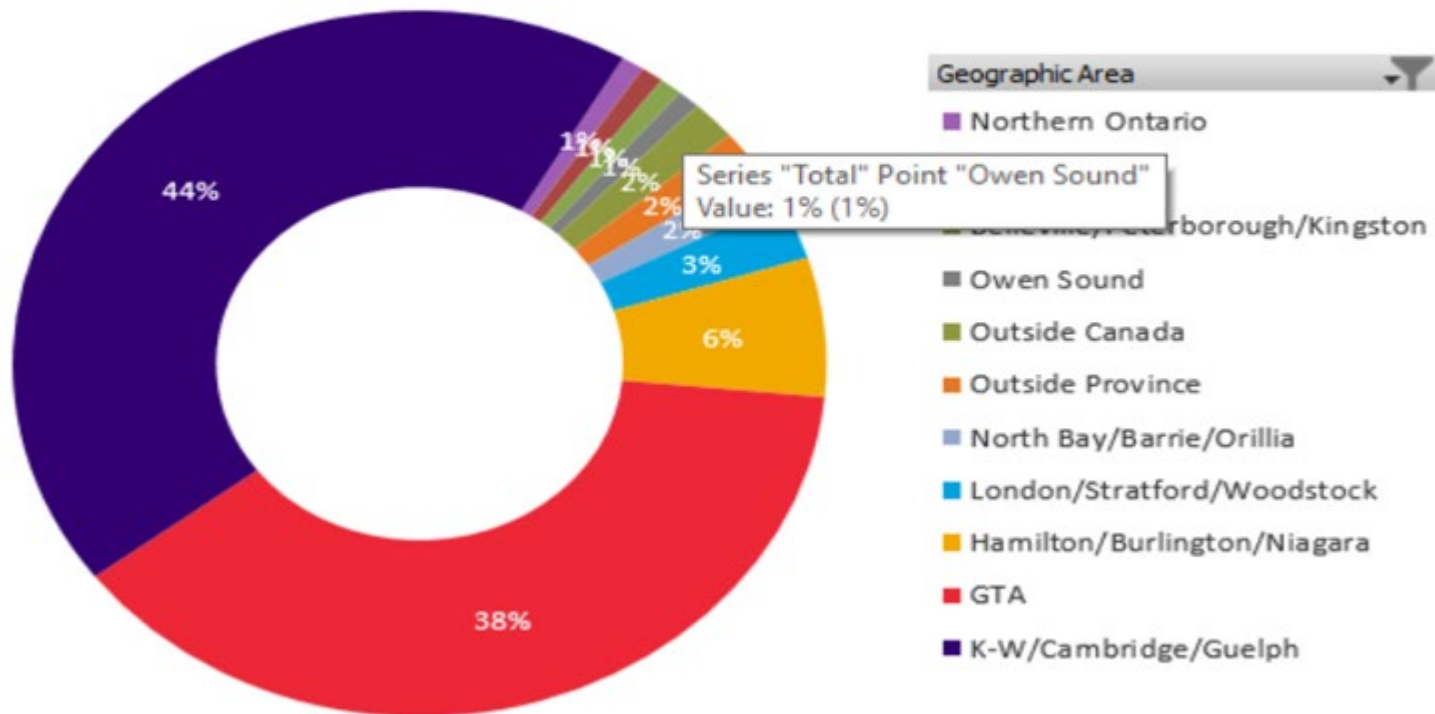
Average Weekly Salaries 2018

	First Work Term		Second Work Term	
	High	Low	High	Low
Academic	$648	minimum wage	$770	minimum wage
Federal	minimum wage	minimum wage	$707	$707
Municipal	$697	minimum wage	$540	minimum wage
Non Profit	$637	minimum wage	$547	minimum wage
Private	$1120	minimum wage	$1320	$525
Provincial	$714	$520	$597	$597
Overall Average	$622			

Sample Arts & Science Co-op Jobs

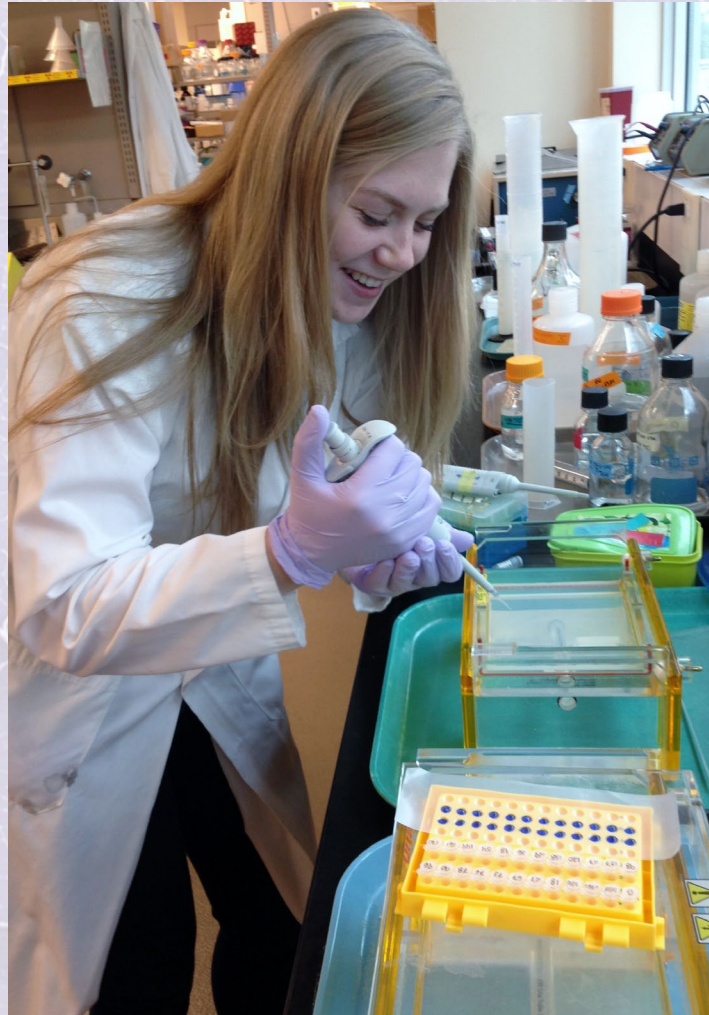# Communication Studies

Computer Science

Kinesiology

Political Science

Biochemistry

English

Environmental Studies

Geography

Health Sciences

Psychology

Examples continued

- Summer Language Program Monitor - Community college, Toronto

- Communications Assistant / National Events Assistant - Non-profit, charitable organization, Kitchener

- Program and Outdoor Skills Program Leader – Summer camps, Haliburton

- Junior Web and Mobile Software Developer - Technology company, Waterloo

Examples Continued

- Therapeutic Fitness Summer Student - Adult therapeutic and recreation facility, Toronto

- Recreation and Leisure Support Worker - Community living project, Toronto

- Student GIS Technician - Regional government, Waterloo

- Historical Teacher/Interpreter - Regional museum, Waterloo

- Office Assistant & Communications Assistant - Provincial government, Toronto

Contact Us

Questions?

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For more information please visit our website**:**

https://navigator.wlu.ca/co-op/home.htm