

Enrollment Requirement for the Graduate Cooperative Education Program
Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2013-14B

Approved, Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies:	February 5, 2014
First Reading, University Council:	April 7, 2014
Second Reading, University Council:	May 5, 2014
Approved, President:	May 5, 2014
Effective Date:	Fall semester, 2014

WHEREAS, approximately 150 graduate students, primarily international, participate in the Cooperative Education Program (CEP) each year, and

WHEREAS, graduate students in the CEP are charged tuition for 3 credit hours of 5974, 5904, 5994 or 7994, and

WHEREAS, graduate students in the CEP are not eligible for assistantships and therefore often must pay the tuition with personal funds, which frequently constitutes a significant hardship, and

WHEREAS, undergraduate students in the CEP are charged a \$50 fee for a similar program, and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 27 "Specifications of Graduate Cooperative Education Program" (February 19, 1981) recommends that students enroll in courses (5990, 7990) that are no longer available, and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 27 recommends that students enroll in the 0-credit course "Graduate Cooperative Education Program" (GRAD 5944 or GRAD 7944)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the course "Graduate Cooperative Education Program" be changed to a 1-credit course, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all graduate students participating in the Cooperative Education Program enroll in the 1-credit course "Graduate Cooperative Education Program" (GRAD 5944 or GRAD 7944) for the applicable fall, spring or summer academic term, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Virginia Tech Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 27 (item 7.) shall be amended to state that:

"All students involved in graduate cooperative programs shall be enrolled in *the 1-credit course "Graduate Cooperative Education Program" 5990, 7990 GRAD*

~~5944 (master's students) or GRAD 7944 (doctoral students), or an appropriate existing intern or practicum type of course and pay the appropriate administrative fees while on co-op assignments. The appropriate registration will be determined by the student's department or degree conferring unit."~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Virginia Tech Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 27 (item 1.) shall be amended as follows to incorporate inclusive language:

"All students are expected to be making reasonable academic progress towards a degree while participating in a Graduate Cooperative Education Program. The responsibility for monitoring ~~a student's~~ *students'* academic progress is shared by ~~his~~ *their* departments and the Graduate School."

Proposed Resolution on Graduate Cooperative Education

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

20 Nov 2013

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Cooperative Education Program (CEP)

- ◆ Students work full-time with off-campus employer
- ◆ Should be an integrated part of curriculum

Program goals

Allows students to

- ➔ Gain experience in their field
- ➔ Achieve a foot-hold in the job market
- ➔ Inform academic studies with hands-on experiences

Program statistics

	# of students	# of int'l
Undergrad	~450/yr	10-20
Graduate	~150/yr	~99%

Issue

There are significant fee differences between graduate and undergraduate CEP's

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- CPT is an immigration status which allows international students to participate in a CEP
- CPT is (almost) the only way an F-1 visa student can work off-campus before graduation

CPT ≠ CEP

Requirements for CPT include

Good standing

Full time student status

Integral part of education

Program comparison

	Undergraduate CEP	Graduate CEP
Approval	Academic advisor approves	Home department approves
Oversight	Career Services	Graduate School
Requirements	Learning goals, evaluation, paper, group “reflection”.	Must appear on plan of study. Otherwise as set by home dept.
Fee waiver	Academic fees may be waived	Academic fees may be waived if CEP >50 miles from campus
Cost to student	Enroll in one 0 credit course, pay \$50 fee	Enroll in one 3 credit course, pay tuition (\$1865 or \$3691)

There appears to be no valid reason for the difference between undergrad and graduate policy

- This policy has not been revised since 1981.
- Policies at SCHEV peers vary widely (from full-time tuition at Michigan State to no cost at Cornell).
- Use of University resources during a CEP is typically very small. In cases where it is not, dept./grad school can require enrollment in appropriate courses.
- 0 credit course satisfy residency requirement of CPT.

Current policy is inequitable and can pose a significant burden

- ➔ Graduate students on a CEP are ineligible for assistantships, and usually *must pay tuition with personal funds*
- ➔ CEP is one of few means international student without summer support from their home departments can support themselves during the summer
- ➔ International students in clinical programs (Clin. Psychology, MFT) must enroll in a CEP during their mandatory internship to qualify for a CPT. Domestic students do not need to do this
- ➔ The difference between undergraduate and graduate CEP fees appears to be a historical accident

For no discernable reason, the University charges graduate students up to **74 times more** than undergraduates for the CEP

Proposed resolution

Change requirement for CEP participation:

- from enrollment in nonexistent 3 credit course (GRAD 5990/7990)
- to enrollment in existing 0 credit CEP course (GRAD 5944/7944)

Institute administrative fee in lieu of tuition for CEP participation