

O mushkego Land-Based Cooperative Education Program

DCO30 Creating Opportunities through Co-op

Course Grade:	11
Course Type:	Open
Course Code:	DCO30
Credit Value:	2 Credits
Prerequisite:	None
Ministry Document:	<i>The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12, Cooperative Education, 2018</i>

This course consists of a learning experience connected to a First Nation community and a cooperative education curriculum focused on developing skills, knowledge, and habits of mind that will support students in their learning, including their education and career/life planning, at school and beyond, today and in the future. Within the context of their experience connected to a community, students will apply skills, knowledge, and habits of mind that will protect and promote their health, safety, and well-being and that will strengthen their inquiry, decision-making, and leadership skills. Students will create and implement a learning plan that meets their particular interests and needs, reflect on their learning, and make connections between their experience in the community on the land and other aspects of their lives.

Course Strands

- Strand A.** Preparing for the Experience: Health and Safety, Well-Being, and Initial Requirements
- Strand B.** Experiential Learning and Transfer of Skills and Knowledge
- Strand C.** The Inquiry Process
- Strand D.** Building Learning Capacity

These strands are organized into four activities - all are essential for completion of co-op program requirements:

- pre-course planning and interviewing
- pre-placement orientation
- classroom integration (classroom component), and
- community placement (community component)..

Course Assessment and Evaluation

70% of the grade will be based upon assessments and evaluations conducted throughout the course:

- Pre-Placement Orientation Learning (10%)
- Classroom Integration Learning (20%)
- Community Placement Learning (40%)

30% of the grade will be based on a final inquiry project administered at or towards the end of the course:

- Culminating Performance Task (30%)

The program consists of a **Policies and Procedures - Principal's and Teacher's Guide**, a **Course Profile Teacher's Guide**, and a **Course Activities and Assignments Student's Guide**.

Program Rationale

In the past, O mushkego people traditionally lived in scattered groups that moved on the land according to the seasonal abundance of wildlife. Today, the O mushkegowuk live primarily in eight communities located in the Mushkegowuk territory. In spite of the change from a bush-oriented to a village-centred way of life, traditional land-based activities continue to be an important part of contemporary Cree land use.

However, traditional activities are being affected by rapid economic and educational changes in the Mushkegowuk communities. Village life has brought about a change from a traditional economy to a modern wage and government transfer economy. Moreover, schools have brought about a change in methods of education from traditional methods of learning that involved observation and practice to conventional methods of learning. The resultant shift in economies and methods of education has resulted in an incomplete transmission of many of the required traditional ecological knowledge, bush skills, and cultural values associated with the traditional way of life.

The development of a cooperative education program centred on land-based activities, such as wildlife harvesting, wildlife preparation, and traditional tools and technology, can address these local economic and educational changes.

A land-based cooperative education program can accommodate the career or educational needs of students in the Mushkegowuk communities. The O mushkego Land-Based Cooperative Education Program can help these students acquire the appropriate knowledge, skills, and values and apply this learning in practical situations. These planned learning experiences can increase the students' awareness of career opportunities in the local community and can provide the students with the background needed for selecting appropriate courses in their final year of high school.

