

CO-OP CREDIT FOR PRE-ANTIOCH WORK EXPERIENCES

Antioch College
Center for Cooperative Education

Pre-Antioch work experience crediting must be completed during prior to registering for your first Antioch C-op. Your Pre-Antioch work experience crediting is due by the 6th Friday of the term.

You need to submit your pre-Antioch work experience paper, and employer evaluation (or confirmation) to your co-op advisor at least 2 days in advance of scheduling a crediting conference with her or him. Each work experience builds upon previous learning experiences and writing about your work is actually a process that focuses your thinking about the experience.

The paper should be an analytical rather than descriptive and 1) clearly document and communicate what you learned; 2) show evidence of thoughtfulness about your learning; 3) be carefully prepared; and 4) be between 6 and 8 pages in length. Spell check and proofread your paper before giving it to your co-op advisor. When you hand in your paper, schedule a meeting with your advisor and allow at least two days for him or her to read it.

Becoming an Antioch student is an important moment in your life. We have a long tradition of reflecting upon goals at the beginning of an Antioch career. This reflection produces insight and awareness. Recording your thoughts on paper provides a reference point for measuring growth and change.

In the pre-Antioch work experience paper, you are asked take stock--to assess your growth and education before you arrived at Antioch. Who are you? You are also asked to look ahead, to consider where you want to go. What are your goals for your Antioch education?

We list below a number of items that you may wish to consider as you write your paper. They are meant to be suggestive; they are not intended to provide an outline for your paper. Use them as you see fit. Some of these questions may be difficult to answer. We are not looking for definitive answers, but for your thoughtful consideration of the kinds of experiences you have had and are hoping to incorporate into your program. How do you believe these experiences may contribute to your larger life goals and aspirations?

Choose a style and format that best allows you to critically examine your learning through work experience, academic work, and community life. Below are some topics to consider when documenting and evaluating your experience.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PAPER CONTENT

I. Individual Growth and Learning

Educational Goals: What were your expectations about learning from this work experience(s).

Adjusting: How did you handle personal issues such as budgeting money, making friends, relating to a new community or culture, or relating to people outside of your own age group? Do you wish you had done some things differently? If so, how?

Choices: How has this work experience helped you make choices concerning your academic major, courses you plan to take, or your career? What links among your work, classes, and community involvement can you document?

II. Learning from the Job and the Workplace: People's motivations and understanding of themselves in the workplace differ. The meaning they derive from work also differs. Please reflect on what you learned through observing your co-workers.

Placement and Preparation: What were your hopes regarding the job? What were your first impressions of the people on the job? How did these change? What information do you think future students should have in planning for this co-op? Did you encounter any difficulties? If so, how did you overcome them?

The Workplace: How is the job environment organized? What are the chains of authority, or hierarchies? What are your observations on authority, hierarchy, and responsibility? What are the values of the workplace? Comment on any issues of note, such as safety, politics, or improvements that might be made.

Work and Society: What roles in society do the employer and the worker in this workplace play? How does the workplace relate to the community in which it is located? Are the reasons for working and the meaning of work different for women or men, for older or younger workers, for those of different racial and ethnic groups, for workers in positions of greater or lesser authority, for you as a student?

Ethics: What ethical issues arose in this work setting? What did you do?

III. Learning from the Place: Antioch students live and work in several places that may differ in size; region; and ethnic, cultural, racial or class structure. The communities in which you lived and worked may significantly influence your learning. In what kinds of neighborhoods did you live and work? Who lived there and why? Describe any unusual or significant events and discuss their meaning and importance. How has the place changed during the past several years? What influences are causing change there?

IV. Your Time at Antioch: What might you like to explore in your future co-ops or classes? Has this experience influenced how you view your classes this semester? What questions interest you socially and intellectually? How might you explore them through courses, co-op, and community life? What personal talents, special skills, sensitivities, and perspectives do you bring with you to Antioch? How might these relate to your educational goals?

Community: Community life is of equal importance to the degree-earning aspects of Antioch education. How do you see yourself contributing to this self-governing community? In what ways might this help you develop as a person? What sorts of community participation do you think you might pursue after you graduate?

Cross-Cultural Experience: Cross-cultural experience is a key dimension in Antioch education. It may well include second-language proficiency. How do you understand your own cultural heritage and background? How might you use this experiences in your program? What do you want to gain from it?

Work: Work experiences provide opportunities to travel, live in new communities, and work with different people and problems. What kind of work do you think will be most educational for you? What role do you want your work experience to play in your program? What kind of life work do you feel drawn to? How can cooperative education help you explore and develop? Are there particular courses, skills, or experiences related to your future work that you can include in your Antioch program? What sorts of non-vocational learning does cooperative education offer to you? What kind of world do you want to live in? How can you, through your choices and actions, help bring this world into being?

Academics: Please discuss programs or courses that are of particular interest to you. What aspects of the Antioch curriculum appeal to you? Do you plan to participate in an Antioch Education Abroad program? If so, which one and why?

V. Conclusion

What does this all mean to you? Why? What were the pivotal moments or events during the experience? What decisions have you made as a result of this experience? What questions do you have?