UBC Arts Co-op Program

2012 Undergraduate Student Survey Results
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Purpose:

- Update data since last survey in 2008 and compare responses to questions such as:
  - Why students join Arts Co-op
  - Common obstacles in job search
  - Overall satisfaction with staff and program

- Gather data for new questions around parental involvement
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Respondents:
- **148 out of 357** UG students completed the survey (40% response rate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Specialization</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Symplicity*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown/Undeclared/Unclassifiable</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All figures from Symplicity are current as of September 2012 with 349 total students*
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Respondents – Other Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Symplicity*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of completed co-op terms

- 0: 31%
- 1: 35%
- 2: 12%
- 3: 3%
- 4: 2%
- 5 or more: 17%
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Student participation in E³ (Enriched Educational Experiences)

- Arts Internship Program: Have done - 5%, Want to do - 10%
- Arts Tri-Mentoring: Have done - 8%, Want to do - 7%
- Community Service Learning: Have done - 14%, Want to do - 18%
- Exchange/Study abroad: Have done - 16%, Want to do - 32%
- Student-Directed Seminar: Have done - 5%, Want to do - 16%
- Work Study/Work Learn: Have done - 30%, Want to do - 41%
- Part-time job (not listed above): Have done - 43%, Want to do - 76%
- None of the above: Have done - 14%, Want to do - 24%
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Reasons for joining Arts Co-op

- **I can explore my career options by trying out several different positions**
  - Important: 82%
  - Somewhat Important: 16%
  - Neutral: 3%

- **I can develop valuable applied skills during my work terms**
  - Important: 79%
  - Somewhat Important: 21%
  - Neutral: 0%

- **I have a higher likelihood to find desirable employment after graduation**
  - Important: 93%
  - Somewhat Important: 6%
  - Neutral: 1%

- **I can earn money while I am still a university student**
  - Important: 46%
  - Somewhat Important: 49%
  - Neutral: 5%
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Number of positions applied to in most recent job search

- Overall (148 students)
- Students on 1 co-op term (52 students)

- Under 10: 45% (Overall), 42% (1 co-op term)
- 10-20: 37% (Overall), 39% (1 co-op term)
- 21-30: 12% (Overall), 10% (1 co-op term)
- Over 30: 6% (Overall), 10% (1 co-op term)
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Major obstacles when applying for jobs

- Do not want to relocate outside Lower Mainland: 2008 - 24%, 2012 - 39%
- Want higher than average wage: 2008 - 18%, 2012 - 50%
- Too many jobs due at one time: 2008 - 34%, 2012 - 31%
- Too many other school assignments: 2008 - 43%, 2012 - 51%
- Underqualified: 2008 - 46%, 2012 - 66%
- Overqualified: 2008 - 7%, 2012 - 4%
- Nothing relates to interests/goals*: 2008 - 34%
- Job descriptions unclear**: 2008 - 14%
- Parents did not want applications to certain positions**: 2008 - 3%
- Other: 2008 - 11%, 2012 - 17%

* Question on 2008 survey, not on 2012 survey
** Question on 2012 survey, not on 2008 survey
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

How often students understand job descriptions

- Usually: 74%
- Sometimes: 24%
- Rarely: 2%

Information in JD influencing students to apply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage (weighted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duties of position</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills required</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization name</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job title</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

2008 UG and SLAIS: "The UBC Arts Co-op staff..."

- Usually respond to my inquiries in a timely manner:
  - Strongly Agree: 68%
  - Agree: 21%
  - Neutral: 4%
  - Disagree: 1%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%

- Are well informed:
  - Strongly Agree: 54%
  - Agree: 32%
  - Neutral: 6%
  - Disagree: 3%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%

- Usually respond with complete and accurate information:
  - Strongly Agree: 55%
  - Agree: 31%
  - Neutral: 6%
  - Disagree: 3%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%

2012 Undergraduates: "The UBC Arts Co-op staff..."

- Usually respond to my inquiries in a timely manner:
  - Strongly Agree: 51%
  - Agree: 43%
  - Neutral: 0%
  - Disagree: 5%
  - Strongly Disagree: 0%

- Are well informed:
  - Strongly Agree: 41%
  - Agree: 50%
  - Neutral: 6%
  - Disagree: 3%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1%

- Usually respond with complete and accurate information:
  - Strongly Agree: 39%
  - Agree: 50%
  - Neutral: 10%
  - Disagree: 1%
  - Strongly Disagree: 0%
Number of office hours typically attended in semester before work term

- 0: 12%
- 1-2: 12%
- 3-4: 6%
- 5 or more: 51%
- Incomplete - I am still on my first co-op job search: 19%

Overall satisfaction compared with number of office hours attended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of office hours attended</th>
<th>Very or somewhat satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or more</td>
<td>89%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Questions about Mum and Dad
**2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey**

**How much parents know about Arts Co-op**

- 24% As much as I do
- 10% Some of the requirements and benefits
- 66% None of the requirements and benefits

**Parents' influence on co-op choices**

- 47% Very influential
- 42% Somewhat influential
- 12% Not very influential (parents not a factor)
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Showing Letter of Support to Parents

- 55%: Yes, I showed them and it was helpful
- 19%: Yes, I showed them but it wasn’t helpful
- 11%: No, I didn’t need to show them because they already support my decision
- 5%: No, I didn’t show them because I thought it would make no difference
- 2%: I didn’t know there was a letter online and would have shown them if I knew
- 8%: I didn’t know there was a letter online but wouldn’t show them anyway
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Parents' concerns about co-op

- Complete degree in 4 years: 18%
- School now, work later: 14%
- Don't leave family home: 20%
- Specific ideas for jobs students should aim for: 16%
- Prioritize family over work: 5%
- Jobs in unsafe locations: 17%
- No concerns: 49%
- Other: 15%
## 2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestions to help parents better understand Arts Co-op</th>
<th>Percentage of responses agreeing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific information for parents on Arts Co-op website</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info session for parents (in-person and/or online) before joining Arts Co-op</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info session for parents (in-person and/or online) after joining Arts Co-op</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finally...!
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

As a result of Arts Co-op, how prepared do you feel for the working world?

**2008**
- Much more prepared: 66%
- Somewhat more prepared: 31%
- It made no difference: 3%

**2012**
- Very prepared: 13%
- Somewhat prepared: 61%
- Neutral: 22%
- Somewhat unprepared: 3%
- Very unprepared: 2%
Likelihood of finding a career-related job after graduation as compared with non-Arts Co-op students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat more likely</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral / Neither more nor less likely</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Overall satisfaction with Arts Co-op

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfaction Level</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat unsatisfied</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very unsatisfied</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2012 Arts Co-op Student Survey

Would you recommend Arts Co-op to other students?

- Yes: 92%
- No: 8%
Student Comments: Would you recommend the Program?
– Respondents who selected “Yes”

“Not only do you get an opportunity to apply to great jobs as an undergrad, you get super helpful sessions and advising on how to make a good resume and how to prepare for an interview.”

“It's an amazing chance to do what few of us get to do - work a full-time job outside of UBC! It's a whole new experience that really diversifies what you're capable of doing, and provides opportunities for you that you never knew existed before.”

“School is totally different from work and many students do not fully appreciate this and how it can affect their life decisions.”

“YOU GET PAID WORK EXPERIENCE.”
Student Comments: Would you recommend the Program?  
– Respondents who selected “No”

“I recommend the UBC Arts Co-op Program to others but only with mixed reviews - the main downside being that the course fees really do cut into the job salary and that some of the jobs are ones that we could find on our own.”

“I believe that, if successful, it would be beneficial. but would warn others of the extra requirements like First Aid and relocation that impede a search.”

“I would recommend Co-op, but make sure students realize exactly what it entails. I would specify that co-op is not the only way to gain experience; if you are proactive in finding your own opportunities, co-op can be a bit of a waste of money.”
Student Comments: Would you recommend the Program? – Respondents who selected “Yes” with a caveat

“I think too many students were admitted. I felt underqualified for many of the jobs, and stressed out a lot about the whole application process.”

“Similar job experiences can be gotten from the work/study program or though regular job postings for less money.”

“Because the jobs I wanted to obtain I have no experience for, counting education as a factor, and the job I received I had experience for but will not help me obtain a job want in the future.”
Student Comments: “Anything else to share”

• I think that coop program is an excellent opportunity for arts students to enter the work force, gain applicable skills and valuable experience. I feel completely prepared to enter the workforce after graduation (I have been offered a permanent position from my third and current coop employer).

• The co-op office staff are amazingly supportive. I've heard horror stories from other co-op programs across the country and every time I do, I am more and more thankful for the staff we have supporting this program.
Student Comments: “Anything else to share”

• Suggestions for additional resources:
  – Manual on back-up options if you don’t get a co-op term
  – Workshops for students struggling to find a work term
  – Drop-in workshops on computer programs and technical skills

• Financial concerns:
  – “I do think it is expensive for what it is. I would strongly consider not doing a third co-op term so I didn't have to pay the 800$ associated with it, on top of the co-op registration fee I've already paid. It would also be nice if the credits we earned through this actually counted towards some type of degree requirement. Other than this - the support I have received has been exceptional. The staff are great for response times and for keeping in touch over the work term. I also appreciate the variance in assignments over the different terms.”
Student Comments: “Anything else to share”

• Job expectations not met:
  – “many of the jobs are unrelated to my field: psychology, and it would be nice to have more job options that are directly applicable to students in arts. also, it would be nice to be guaranteed a job!!”
  
  – “I found a lot of the posted jobs had really specific expectations that are not applicable to most Arts students. I think that the co-op program over-promised a little about the opportunities that would be available for students as most employers seem to be looking for specific skills and experience rather than someone that they will teach and train.”
Thoughts/Comments?