



University of New Haven

**HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES**

# THE COOPERATIVE WORK EDUCATION PROGRAM

The University of New Haven is a private, top-tier comprehensive institution recognized as a national leader in experiential education. Founded in 1920 the university enrolls approximately 1,800 graduate students and more than 4,600 undergraduates.



*“Experiential education is one of the hallmarks of the University of New Haven’s approach to higher education. Our commitment to this pedagogy is demonstrated in virtually everything we do within the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. Co-ops offer our students opportunities to enhance this educational experience by applying what they have learned in the classroom to the real world challenges they will face upon graduation.”*

**Mario T. Gaboury, J.D., Ph.D.,** Dean, Henry C. Lee College

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## WHO WE ARE

The University of New Haven (UNH) is a private, top tier comprehensive institution recognized as a national leader in experiential education.

Founded in 1920 on the campus of Yale University in cooperation with Northeastern University, UNH moved to its current West Haven campus in 1960 and opened the Orange campus in January, 2014. The University operates a satellite campus in Tuscany, Italy, and it offers programs at several locations throughout Connecticut and in New Mexico. UNH provides its students with a unique combination of a solid liberal arts education and real-world, hands-on career and research opportunities.

The University enrolls approximately 6500 students, including nearly 1600 graduate students and more than 4800 undergraduates – the majority of whom reside in university housing. Through its College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Tagliatela College of Engineering, and College of Lifelong & eLearning, UNH offers 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. UNH students have access to more than 400 study abroad programs worldwide and its student-athletes compete in 16 varsity sports in the NCAA Division II's highly competitive Northeast-10 conference.

## THE CO-OP PROGRAM

The Cooperative Work/Education Program (Co-op) is defined as a program that alternates periods of academic study with periods of work experience in the student's field of concentration. The work experience is developed and approved by UNH as a suitable learning situation.



*UNH students Matthew Carroll and Monica Kowalski address the press about the establishment of the UNH Co-op program*

administrators who will be committed to leading and innovating in the discipline of cooperative education and developing the curriculum and teaching methodologies to enhance the integration of classroom learning with practical work related experience. It will create mutually beneficial partnerships with employers, the community, alumni, academic departments and other universities and professional organizations.

The student participating in the Co-op experience will learn through observation and also by participating in meaningful work for the organization. Throughout the experience, the college will monitor the student's progress and the student's performance on the job will be supervised and evaluated jointly by the college and by the Cooperative employer. Cooperative work/education programs provide for the expansion of learning experiences through paid employment in a supervised work setting related to the student's major field of study or career focus.

It is expected that the Co-op Program will involve a dedicated group of individuals, including multidisciplinary faculty, staff, and



*November 13, 2014, President Steven Kaplan, along with New Haven Mayor Toni Harp announce the creation of the first UNH Co-op program with partners: the City of New Haven, Alexion Corporation and the Connecticut Junior Republic. Dr. Henry Lee, front right.*

## BECOMING A CO-OP SPONSOR

The Co-op Program will have numerous benefits for the sponsoring organizations. A major benefit of participating in the program is competing for top college graduates through early identification, evaluation and skill development that match the organization's needs. In addition, the program will prepare college students to be more readily productive upon their graduation.

Employers involved with this program should see improvement of their recruitment program and a stronger presence on the UNH campus, widening their pool of potential candidates for the future. Employers may be more likely to hire students who accomplish valuable and necessary work for the organization during the co-op experience.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CO-OP SPONSOR

UNH expects that sponsoring organizations provide students with work assignments that directly relate to the student's academic program and career aspirations and pay a wage that is reasonable, fair, and proportional with the skill level associated with this position. It is also expected that the organization work collaboratively with the university to develop a mutually agreeable plan for the student's Co-op experience and to provide supervision for the student during this period along with timely evaluations of the student's progress.

It is expected that organizations will consider students on an equal opportunity basis and that they will commit to continuing a student's employment through the duration of the Co-op consisting of a semester long plan for the student. The university expects that the organization will support the Co-op Program requirements and that, during the work term, the student will be considered an employee subject to the policies and laws that relate to other employees of the organization. Lastly, the organization will provide feedback to the student on his or her performance with the organization and guidance on future career endeavors.