



FLEMING

School of Environmental &
Natural Resource Sciences

CO-OP STUDENT MANUAL FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

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Introduction

The Fish & Wildlife Technician Co-op is intended to give students real-world experience with various private sector, government and non-government organizations engaged in Fish & Wildlife management and conservation activities. Co-op provides practical, hands-on opportunities to apply knowledge and skills obtained in Fleming College's Fish and Wildlife co-op program.

The placement typically occurs in the spring and summer and must be a minimum of 450 hours. Students may choose to work anywhere in the province and beyond, provided the placement meets the criteria outlined in this manual and is reviewed by the Program Coordinator or the Project & Work Integrated Learning Coordinator.

The co-op course costs \$558.00. Fees cover the costs of administration, tracking, and monitoring progress of co-op work terms. Additional expenses incurred during the co-op such as food, lodging, transportation, clothing, criminal records check etc. are the student's responsibility. Co-op wages are negotiated between the student and the employer.

Fish & Wildlife Technician duties vary significantly from job to job. The following list includes typical duties one might encounter as a Fish and Wildlife Technician:

- Monitor fish and wildlife populations using a variety of equipment and survey techniques.
- Collect biological data from various fish and wildlife species
- Survey lakes, rivers, ponds, and marshes for fish, wildlife, insects, and flora.
- Assess and evaluate fish and wildlife habitat.
- Restore habitat and maintain habitat improvement structures.
- Compile, prepare, analyze, and manage survey data.
- Conduct, supervise, and organize logistics for field operations.
- Prepare technical reports and scientific papers.
- Produce maps using GIS equipment.
- Manage databases
- Respond to information requests from the public
- Operate and maintain equipment such as boats, nets, and water chemistry meters.
- Contribute to the development of education programs and public information campaigns.
- Communicate on the phone and in meetings with colleagues, supervisors, government officials, and the public.

Students are encouraged to search for and secure their work term early in order to get a suitable location. Any questions on the work description should be discussed with the Program Coordinator or the Project & Work Integrated Learning Coordinator prior to accepting the co-op.

Co-op Criteria

The co-op placement is a paid position; therefore, it is the employer's responsibility to provide appropriate WSIB and liability insurance coverage for the duration of the student's placement.

All co-op placements must meet the following criteria:

- Must be reviewed by the Program Coordinator or the Project & Work Integrated Learning Coordinator as a suitable learning environment
- The student must be engaged in relevant learning, instead of merely observing
- Student performance and attendance is monitored by the employer and reported at the end of the placement
- The student will be assigned a direct on-site supervisor that will provide professional mentorship and learning opportunities

The Partnership

The co-op program is a three-way partnership between the student, the employer, and the college. The success of the co-op partnership is dependent upon a mutual commitment from all parties. The three partners share the responsibilities in ensuring maximum benefits to all participants.

During the work term, students must be engaged in productive work, rather than merely observing. While the student's progress is monitored by Fleming College, job performance is supervised and evaluated by the employer.

Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the student to:

- Abide by Fleming College's policies, procedures, and code of conduct
- Know and comply with the employers' policies and regulations (Confidentiality, Freedom of Information, Codes of Ethics or Conduct)
- Accrue the required number of co-op hours in the workplace (travel time is not included)
- Provide the employer with accurate and appropriate information regarding qualifications and interests
- Actively engage in the activities of the co-op with a professional and positive attitude
- Attend employer orientations or sessions designed to familiarize the student with the organization
- Achieve a minimum final rating of a "pass" on each performance measure
- Attend all placement interviews and orientation seminars prior to the placement
- Accept that some employers will require students to work non-traditional hours (afternoons, evenings, & weekends)
- Notify the Project & Work Integrated Learning Coordinator if you decide to leave your co-op employer prior to your work term being completed

Employer Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the employer to:

- Be informed and adhere to Fleming College's co-op policies and procedures
- Comply with all Provincial and Federal Freedom of Information, Human Rights, and Employment Legislation
- Provide orientation, supervision and training for students
- Provide productive, relevant work experiences
- Maintain contact with the Project & Work Integrated Learning Coordinator concerning any problems or changes
- Complete mid-term and final performance evaluations
- Provide an experienced member of the organization who can supervise the student, and provide them with mentorship
- Inform Fleming College of any concerns with the student including failure to meet their learning goals and learning outcomes

Supervisor Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the supervisor to:

- Help transition the student from an education environment to a work environment
- Provide daily supervision, mentoring, and monitoring of student progress
- Facilitate student orientation to specific routines, policies, procedures, practices, guidelines and protocols
- Consider the health and safety of the student when planning and suggesting placement learning experiences
- Facilitate the student's learning through supervision, teaching and gradually increasing appropriate independence in the work setting
- Provide exposure to a variety of industry specific tasks
- Participate in the student's ongoing evaluation by:
 - Providing ongoing constructive feedback
 - Participating in the evaluation of the student by providing input and support documentation

College Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of Fleming College to:

- Inform students and employers of required policies and procedures
- Maintain and enhance relationships with new and existing employers
- Provide career training, personal and professional development seminars and resources to enhance students' on-going employability
- Provide administrative support for the recruitment process (i.e. assist employers and students with job postings, interview scheduling, interview facilities, etc.)
- Maintain contact (via site visits, email, or phone) with students and employers during the co-op
- Provide advice and support to students and employers if difficulties arise during the co-op
- Comply with all Provincial and Federal Freedom of Information, Human Rights, and Employment Legislation

Professionalism

Students enrolled in the co-op program are representing Fleming College, and are expected to demonstrate professionalism, communicate clearly and effectively, and develop harmonious working relationships. Students are expected to respect and appreciate diversity and human rights. Unprofessional conduct may adversely affect any future opportunities for other students at a particular organization.

A positive attitude will help maximize the learning opportunity and the overall co-op experience. Students are expected to arrive at their placement on time, be prepared, and ready to engage. Students must dress appropriately, including the necessary personal protective equipment, and come with the basic hand tools needed to do the job (unless provided by the employer).

Evaluation

There are four main components to the evaluation process:

- a) Employer evaluation
- b) Student evaluation
- c) Completion of the required total hours. Provide a copy of the Record of Employment, or the Attendance Journal, signed by the employer
- d) Assessment of the learning outcomes and competencies

Health & Safety

Safety in the workplace is governed by the Occupational Health & Safety Act. Details concerning the regulations are available at College libraries, and from members of the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee members at the College or at the placement workplace.

Employer Responsibilities

- To have a Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee with workers and management represented when 20 or more people are employed. Sec 9-2-a
- To provide information, instruction and supervision to protect the health of the worker. Sec 25-2-a
- To ensure that equipment, materials and protective devices as prescribed are provided. Sec 25-1-a
- To take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker. Sec 25-2-h
- To carry out such training programs for workers, supervisors, and committee members as may be prescribed. Sec 26-1-1

Worker Responsibilities

- To work in compliance with the ACT and its regulations. Sec 28-1-a
- To use or wear the equipment, protective devices, or clothing that the worker's employer requires to be used or worn. Sec 28-1-b
- To report to the employer or supervisor the absence of or defect in any equipment or protective device of which the worker is aware and which may endanger himself or herself or another worker. Sec 28-1-c
- To report to the employer any contravention of the Act or the existence of any hazard of which he or she knows. Sec 28-1-d

Worker Rights

- To refuse unsafe work. Sec 4-3-5
- To know of exposure to hazardous products or conditions. Sec 43-51

Note¹: The College's policies and procedures with respect to co-op placement are consistent with standards and legislation around Human Rights, Employment Equity, Harassment & Discrimination and Freedom of Information. Students in co-op placement are covered by these policies.

Contact Information

Fleming College, Frost Campus 200 Albert St. S.
Lindsay, ON K9V 5E6
Phone: (705) 324-9144, Toll Free: 1-866-353-6464

Gillian Clost

Project & Work Integrated Learning Coordinator

Phone: (705) 324-9144 ext. 1192

Email: SENRS-WIL@flemingcollege.ca