

November 2023 Issue

Senate Approves Direct Admission into Co-op

Students Will Apply to Ted Rogers Co-op Directly from High School

On November 7th, TMU's Senate approved the plan to start admitting students into the Ted Rogers Co-op Program directly from high school.

Envisioned in the business plan for growing the Ted Rogers Co-op program back in 2017, this new process is now officially approved to be in effect for the cohort starting in September 2025.

Although this was a major win for us, there is still much work to be done.

Background

Even though the Ted Rogers Co-op Program has seen significant growth in student participation and student earnings over the last 6 years, the main driver behind direct admission is to support the School's ability to convert high school applicants with strong academic backgrounds.



2,413*

Active Co-op Students



\$134,000,000*

Work Term Earnings



1,510*

Co-op Graduates

*as of November 13, 2023

Another key advantage to direct admission is that it will provide our Co-op students a longer window to prepare for their 1st work term. Currently, students in the ACC, LAW, HRM, and MKT programs have only one semester, after being admitted into the Co-op program, to prepare.

Part of this preparation includes the completion of a comprehensive Co-op Prep Program, involving three levels of Excel Bootcamps, a symposium, live actor simulations, peer mentoring, a psychometric assessment, and 1:1 coaching.

Concurrent to participating in the Co-op Prep Program, students are studying, and are actively searching and interviewing for roles. This puts a lot of pressure on Co-op students within a short, six-month period.

With high school admission, students admitted into the Co-op option have at least two years to prepare for their 1st work term.

Co-op Will Remain Accessible and Inclusive

Accessibility and inclusivity remain strong pillars of our program, so students will also be permitted to apply to the program at the end of their 1st and/or 2nd year, contingent on program attrition and space availability.

We will continue to offer direct entry students the option to apply to Co-op.

Admission Considerations

With the introduction of a new process for Co-op admission, comes a change in how we select students. Currently, we expect a CGPA of 2.8 (3.0 for SAF), in addition to a full application including a resume, cover letter, and virtual interview.

With this new process, the selection criteria will be based on admission averages and enrollment targets, which will be set for each of the five schools, based on labour market conditions, as stated under section 3.0 of the approved Direct Admission proposal.

At this point, we will need to do some further analysis of the grade averages for students admitted into TRSM, and agree on annual intake targets.

Next Step is to Operationalize the Plan

As one might expect, there is still a fair bit of work ahead as we plan for the launch of direct admission in late Fall of 2024 - the time in which high school students will begin to apply to Co-op on their OUAC (Ontario Universities' Application Centre) application.

Some of the institutional work that needs to get done in the next 12 months includes:

1 TMU - Admissions Office

- Work with OUAC to allow high school students to apply directly to the Co-op option
- Create key messaging for high school students - for marketing purposes
- Ensure we meet the intake targets, as directed by TRSM

2 TMU - The Registrar

- Create a new roadmap for TRSM students admitted directly into the Co-op stream
- Work with us to edit the University Calendar

3 TMU - Student Fees Office

- Build out a process to support new Co-op fee schedules

4 TRSM - Academic (Chairs/Directors/UCC/PASS)

- Analyze historical data related to 1st year admissions
- Build consensus for the academic criteria for Co-op
- Edit the Co-op section of the 2024-2025 University Calendar to reflect changes
- Work with the student advising teams to ensure alignment of messaging and support

5 TRSM - Recruitment

- Work closely with TMU Admissions to reach and influence high school students

6 TRSM - Fit for Business

- In collaboration, establish a strategy to support TRSM students in 1st year, including those in the Co-op option

7 Business Career Hub/Ted Rogers Co-op

- Review the Co-op Prep Program to reflect that Co-op students start in 1st semester
- Update key messages and procedures for all stakeholders
- Operational - revision of procedures for capturing student data and tracking progress

Summary

The move to direct admission into Co-op is a strategy that will support TRSM in attracting academically strong students. The added benefit is that it will provide students a longer period of time in which to prepare for their 1st work term.

This change, however, requires close collaboration across many teams within TMU, as we create new processes and support systems.

We are appreciative of the support we have received at both the Faculty and Registrar level and we look forward to making this a reality.

Wish to Learn More

If you are interested in learning more about direct admission into Co-op, including reviewing the Senate-approved proposal, please feel free to reach out to myself at dmuirhead@torontomu.ca.