



## Career-Based Learning Experience:

# Internship or Local Co-Op

CBLE or WBL (Plan/Go)\*

### Definition

An internship or a local cooperative educational experience is a school-approved training program in which the student is placed with an employer for a limited period of time. Planned activities and learning objectives are structured to give the student an understanding of a particular business or occupation.

### State Certificate

None

### Course Credit

Local school board decision

### Number of Hours

Determined by the local school district and employer

### Program Administration

Local school district teacher coordinator and training sponsor/employer

### Program Elements

- Competencies performed
- Evidence of evaluation
- Responsibilities and training outline ([see Appendix 2](#))

### Documentation

- Local school district materials
- For WBL: WBL training agreement ([Appendix 1](#))

### Resources

- [Perkins Collaborative Resource Network: Work-Based Learning Toolkit](#)

### Virtual Option

- Schools, employers, and students can shift to virtual internships and co-ops by shifting to a project-based/ problem-solving approach over onsite training and tasks. Authenticity is maintained as regular interaction and accountability is still required between the school and the employer.
  - Supervising teachers work collaboratively with mentor employers to assign discrete company projects over a long-term face-to-face experience.

- The projects can utilize similar virtual approaches described previously for job shadowing company employees, doing skill development through videos and practice at home, as practicable, and regular mentor check-ins.
- Project ideas can come from those items that tend to stay on a company's to-do list because they are not a priority. Interns can take on research, developing ideas and prototypes, writing proposals, or developing social media campaigns, for example.
- Remote internships can also focus on deeper communications and career preparation activities that develop employability skills.
- Potential Ideas:
  - Develop a computer application (app) for the company.
  - Create and publish a weekly or monthly newsletter or podcast on a self-selected topic based on market data.
  - Create and manage a YouTube channel for employees or customers.
  - Film a documentary on the history and purpose of the company or a specific product.
  - Research and propose methods to increase environmental sustainability (e.g., reduce waste).
  - Dissect the anatomy of the company web content or social media, based on company reviews or products/services.
  - Help market the company's products/services to younger audiences.
  - Research, investigate, and create a proposal for a new product or service.
  - Research and evaluate the layout and efficiency of the company's physical spaces and workflows.
- Other possible ideas, as long as completed in partnership with a company: [My PBL Works](#)

\*Note: All six WBL criteria still need to be met.

Excerpted from the [Wisconsin Guide to Implementing Career-Based Learning Experiences](#)