

Learn about Internships & Experiential Learning at HACC!  
<https://youtu.be/UtNoJiFK29M>

[Video opens with HACC logo on screen.]

**KATHLEEN DORMER CARUSONE VOICEOVER:**

Welcome to HACC, Central PA's Community College. This video is brought to you today by me Kathleen Dormer Carusone in the career development services unit here at the College.

[The screen switches to a slide with text at the top and photos in the middle. The text reads, "Kathleen Dormer Carusone, J.D. Internship and Experiential Learning Opportunities Coordinator." The prominent photo is of Ms. Carusone.]

**VO:**

And I am the internships and experiential learning opportunities coordinator here in the career development services unit at the College. Today I would like to talk to you about experiential learning opportunities.

[The slide switches to a page with headline text at the top that reads, "What is an Experiential Learning Opportunity?" In the center is a photo of a student at a computer and text that reads, "An Experiential Learning Opportunity (ELOP) provides a student with a practical learn by-doing experience outside of a classroom setting for a given period of time (usually a semester.)"]

**VO:**

As a student, you can experience an experiential learning opportunity during your educational journey here at HACC. This is an outside of the classroom opportunity in a real-world setting. It could be in an office, could be a facility, an institution, an assembly line, a plant - depends on your program and depends on the opportunity that you chose. It's for a certain set period of time, often it can be a semester – if its an internship, a practicum, a co-op or field experience. Sometimes it's a shorter period of time depending on the type of experiential learning opportunity that you choose. So, you get to apply the skills that you learned during your coursework, in your classrooms and your labs to this real-world experience.

[The slide switches to a page with headline text at the top that reads, "Types of Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELOPs)." In the center is chart with 12 boxes. The boxes read, "Informational Interviews," "Job Shadowing," "Mock Interviews," "Career Mentoring Network," "Tours," "Service Learning," "Volunteering," "Studio Performances," "Research Projects," "Internships," "Practicums," and "Co-ops."

**VO:**

So, what are the types of experiential learning opportunities that you can engage in while you are here at HACC. You have several to choose from while you're here. There are informational interviews, where you become the interviewer of the career professional. So that way you can ask questions that will allow you to determine whether or not you believe this will be the correct career choice for you. You may also participate in a job shadowing experience where you are now with that career professional side by side at their site observing the experiences that a person in that position and industry or field will have, perhaps on a daily basis. What will they do? What are their job responsibilities and duties? These experiences can be for several hours, half a day, a full day, or depending on the program and the site, a multiple day experience. There's also HACC's Career Mentoring Network which you will find on College Central Network, HACC's career services platform. Here you will be able to search for a mentor. We strongly encourage you to do so because this

person is a professional with tremendous amounts of experience, who can guide you not only on your educational journey while you're here at HACC, but also on your career path as you exit HACC and enter into that new industry or trade or career that you have chosen. College Central Network will also provide you with a variety of resources and tools in career services both related to HACC and in general. There are tours both in-person and virtually that you will be able to take while you're here at HACC – depends on the semester and depends on the opportunity. There are service learning projects such as the Special Olympics - a variety of programs I'm going to give you as an example education and human services, but it could be for anyone here at the College that is studying that might like to participate in the Special Olympics. Typically it's as a volunteer, but it's often considered a service learning project. Sometimes it's related to a course or an assignment. You may be a marketing student who wants to assist with their marketing campaign. You can be a human services student or an education student who wants to be a buddy for one of the participants throughout the day. You then get to present your project to your peers and/or a faculty and staff panel about your experience. There are volunteer opportunities with a variety of organizations, non-profits and missions. There are studio performances. This is typically for students here at HACC that are in the performing arts, the visual arts, and the music business industry such as students who are interested in or have chosen the recording arts. Now they have the opportunity to not only do an Informational Interview, but get into a recording studio with a recording arts professional and find out how that career path will work for them. There are research projects from again a variety of organizations and missions who are looking for students to do a variety of different types of research. And, of course, there are always internships, practicums, co-ops and field experiences as types of experiential learning opportunities here at HACC.

[The slide switches to a page with headline text at the top that reads, "Services I can provide for you:" In the center is chart with four lines reading, "Assistance with all types of ELOPs," "Individual Student Appointments," "Workshops/Internship Week/Internship Fairs," and "Program based events: STEM Fest."]

**VO:**  
How I may be of service to you while you're here as the internships and experiential learning opportunities coordinator is that I can assist you with all these different types of ELOPs during individual student appointments if you'd like to meet with me; during workshops that I will host, and will have outside external partners hosting as well. During Internship Week when workshops can occur and other events may happen. Internship Week is typically going to be in the fall - the third week in September - and in the Spring semesters the third week in February and Internship Fairs in the fall will be the last week in September and the last week in February for the spring semester. There are program-based events such as STEM Fest which we just had last spring. And this is for students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs whether or not they've already declared their major or they have yet to declare their major. Simply for students who are interested in being inspired, having some fun, checking out demonstrations in these industries that are trendy with very interesting topics; so, that way you can network and find out more information. In addition, there will be other events that are yet to come. So, stay tuned...

[The slide switches to a page with headline text at the top that reads, "Why should you engage in an ELOP?" There is a chart with 11 bullets reading, "Test drive career choice," "Experience/build resume," "Enhance the opportunity to hire entry-level candidates," "Increase the chances for a better salary," "Earn college credit," "Paid v. Unpaid," "Develop skills (strengths & weaknesses)," "Gain valuable understanding of major & coursework prep," "Build confidence," "Motivate, establish & strengthen work habits," and "Network." A line at the bottom reads, "An ELOP provides the chance to make a student more employable."]

**VO:**

And find out why you should engage in an experiential learning opportunity. This is the time for you to figure out if this is the right career path for you. Engaging in these experiences will allow you to do that. It will also allow you to figure out, 'Why am I learning all this information and doing all this coursework in these courses?' - to develop your strengths - continue to develop your weaknesses. As your gaining this experience and now figuring out as one student, there have been several, but this one in particular realized, 'Oh this is why the faculty have chosen to teach me in this way and give me these assignments because now I'm out here in the field; and, I totally understand and am better prepared to do the assignments that they give me while I'm on my internship.' It allows you to build your confidence and take whatever work habits you previously developed -- you can better develop those and gain new work habits. It motivates you to really want to do these things because you are ultimately preparing and allowing yourself to become more employable by doing an experiential learning opportunity or doing several experiential learning opportunities while you're here at HACC. You build your resume; you put your experiences on there. This will also allow you to enhance the opportunity to be hired as an entry-level candidate. In a national study, 95% of employers are more likely to hire students who have not only done experiential learning opportunities but those students who have done internships, practicums, co-ops, and field experiences. These experiences also hopefully allow you to have the chance for an increased hourly wage or an increased annual salary. While you're here at HACC some of these experiences can also be credit-based experiences; so, you can earn college credit while doing the experiential learning opportunity. Some may be paid, some may be unpaid it really depends on the experience that you choose and what you're doing and, importantly it allows to build your network of people that you will get to know and come to know in your chosen field. After all an experiential learning opportunity provides you the chance to become more employable!

[The slide switches to a page with headline text at the top that reads, "HACC's Career Development Services webpages." The center is a screenshot of the webpage.]

**VO:**

To conclude, I'd like to show you HACC's Career Development Services webpages, minus myself on the video, so that way you can see the information for the website. Welcome to HACC's career services webpages so that you can explore, discover, and connect with a career path that is right for you. At [HACC.edu/students/careerservices](http://HACC.edu/students/careerservices), you will find a variety of pages to help you find contact information for my colleagues in career education, or myself and for my colleagues in employer partnerships. There's a resource page so that you can check out information in exploring career options and identifying college majors... taking a look at resources for experiential learning opportunities and Internships as well as resource information for employment services. There's also a page for handouts, guides and videos. There's a FAQs, frequently asked questions page for various topics in career education, experiential learning and employer services with summaries of those topics and contact information for the folks who can provide more information on these topics for you. As well, there's an employer services page for both students and employers and external partners about the different types of employer services that are offered here at HACC.

[The slide switches to a page with headline text at the top that reads, "Career Development Services Unit." The center has text that reads, "Kathleen Dormer Carusone, coordinator of internships & experiential learning opportunities, [careerservices@hacc.edu](mailto:careerservices@hacc.edu), 717-280-2433."]

**VO:**

Thank you for taking the time to view this video, to learn about myself, Kathleen Dormer Carusone, the coordinator of internships and experiential learning opportunities here in the career development services unit. And more importantly, to learn about all the services that I can offer you

regarding experiential learning and internships, in addition to briefly learning about my colleagues in career education who can help you explore your career options and also my colleagues in employer partnerships who can help you network and find potential employers so you can ultimately gain that first job when you finish your program and studies here at HACC! More importantly we are here to help you; we look forward to helping you, and we look forward to seeing you. Thank you and have a great day!