

Differences Between a Part-Time Job, Internship, and Co-op

	<i>Part-time job</i>	<i>Internship</i>	<i>UConn Co-op</i>
Purpose	Completed primarily for monetary purposes	Completed for several possible reasons, which may include gaining experience, academic credit, and/or compensation	Completed for experience and compensation
Learning	Tasks of job must be learned for the work to be adequately completed	Learning reflects the goals of the student, the outcomes expected by the employer, and the requirements of a faculty member/internship coordinator (if for academic credit)	Learning reflects the goals of the student and the outcomes expected by the employer
Type of Work	Work is assigned which needs to be completed; may or may not be directly related to an academic pursuit	Involves projects or ongoing work that is purposeful and of a professional nature, often related to an academic pursuit	Completes assigned work and projects that are purposeful and of a professional nature
Compensation	Always	Sometimes, employer determines; credit decided by the university and is not synonymous or a substitute for compensation	Always
Student Fees and/or Costs	None	If earning credit, ranges from hundreds to low thousands of dollars, based on number of credits and term interning (fall, spring, summer)	Low fee to remain registered as a UConn student
Supervisor	Supervisor serves as an authority figure to whom the employee reports	Supervisor serves as the main point of contact for assignments and projects; supervisor is also expected to ensure that mentoring occurs, either by doing it him/herself or by arranging for another valued member of the organization to take on the role	Supervisor serves as the main point of contact for assignments and projects; supervisor is also expected to ensure that mentoring occurs, either by doing it him/herself or by arranging for another valued member of the organization to take on the role
Duration	It is anticipated that employee will stay through their graduation, the end of a project or need, or until terminated, depending on the position	A set period, either a semester, year or summer; can be extended if the role continues to evolve	Lasts between four to six months; can be extended one additional consecutive cycle. Ex – January-May; January-August; June-December; August-December
Hours	May range anywhere from 5 – 20+ hours per week, depending on employer need and student availability	May be 5-20 hours per week during the semester, and up to 40 hours per week during the summer	May range depending on employer need and student availability Minimum: 35 hours per week Maximum: 50 hours per week
Eligibility	Undergraduate & graduate students	Undergraduate & graduate students	Undergraduate students