

Certificate in Co-operative Management

*Offered in an online format by Co-operative Management Education,
Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University (Canada)*

The **Certificate in Co-operative Management** is comprised of a set of online, part-time courses designed to be completed in 10 months. These courses will enhance your practical knowledge of the relevance and impact of the co-operative business model. The program is intended for leaders and leadership-track employees in co-operatives/credit unions/mutuals and affiliated organizations. In addition to joining a diverse international network, you will acquire an expanded toolbox of management tools and best practices related to **strategy, financial sustainability, and innovation.**

Upon successful completion of this program, you will receive an executive professional development Certificate in Co-operative Management. If you wish to continue your studies with our Graduate Diploma or Master's, you will receive course credit toward these academic programs.

Program Structure: Interactive courses are delivered using an Online Learning Platform and are structured using a mix of individual, group, and full class learning methods. There is flexibility in the structure of our program; you participate in courses from your home or office at times and days that work for your schedule. To be successful in these courses, you must have enough time and discipline each week to read articles, interact in online discussions, and write assignments.

Cost: \$6000 CAD (not including optional study tour participation)

Contact: Erin Hancock or Kristen Herrington (cme@smu.ca)

Apply Now: www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/cme-admissions.html

Certificate Courses:

1) Co-operative Values and Principles "Primer"

Scope: Examines both the philosophical origins and historical evolution of co-operatives and how their values and principles differentiate them from other forms of enterprises. This is a required independent study (approximately 20 hours of effort) that must be completed before the online courses commence. We waive this requirement for any graduates of a Credit Union Development Education (DE) program and some other programs where values and principles are covered in detail.

2) Complete the following online courses and earn 7.5 university credits

September to December (earn 3 credits)

- **STRATEGIC ANALYSIS – PART 1 AND 2 (3 CREDITS)**

Early September to mid-December: 8-10 hours/week for 12 weeks

To lead and manage a co-operative, one must see the co-operative business model for what it is. This course examines the co-operative equilibrium model which challenges co-operatives to view themselves as having a dual nature and structure as businesses and associations of members. Learn how to maintain a strong co-operative model in the face of the identity crisis that many co-operatives face due to tendencies to adopt corporate approaches to governance and management. This course is rich in case studies and examples of the "new co-operative paradigm" in application. Practical topics are explored including shared surplus, patronage dividend and loyalty programs as a source of competitive advantage for co-operatives.

January to April (earn 3 credits)

- **CO-OPERATIVE FINANCE (3 CREDITS)**

Early January – mid-April: 8-10 hours/week for 12 weeks

Operating in the current international capital driven market economy, the questions of where the finance comes from and what it is used for, are even more compelling for co-operatives. How can co-operatives ensure that they are viable businesses whilst remaining true to their co-operative values? This is the capital conundrum for co-operatives. This course examines the co-operative paradigm (co-operative values and co-operative capital) compared to the dominant paradigm (financial capital) and explores the possible options for the development of the co-operative approach to financial management and capital structures. The aim is to understand the ways in which finance and more diverse capitals within the co-operative movement can be used to uphold and develop co-operative values and networks.

May/June (earn 1.5 credits)

- **CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT INNOVATION (1.5 credits)**

Mid-May to late-June: 8-10 hours/week for 6 weeks

Explore innovative management practices in the context of co-operative principles and profitable business opportunities. While all businesses strive to be innovative, what does this mean for a co-operative? The co-operative model has various areas of strength, including its ownership and control structure, long-term planning horizon, values-based decision-making approach, and triple-bottom line imperative. How do we approach innovation to create a co-operative advantage in the areas where we are strongest? This course distills innovation into its component parts in order to develop a foundational understanding of innovation, challenge students to critique their pre-conceptions, and explore models for and examples of innovation.

Upon completion of the certificate requirements, we encourage participation in:

- **STUDY TOUR OF CO-OPERATIVE EXEMPLARS (ITALY OR SPAIN)**

Mid-October for 10 days

An intensive study tour to a co-operative or credit union network that demonstrates excellence in management and performance. These tours will expose you to the possibilities for integrated, co-operative networks.

Inter-University Course Credit:

We will grant up to a maximum of 1.5 credit hours for equivalent co-operative management education courses from other universities. These courses must be focused on co-operative business or management. This course credit opportunity will not be relevant to most Certificate students, but may be beneficial to some students that have studied (or are in the process of studying) at other universities that offer co-operative sector focused programs.

Offered in collaboration with



“The World Council views this effort as a way to perfect and educate financial co-operatives worldwide. We support these efforts as they will result in credit unions improving the lives of their members” – Victor Corro, Vice President, Member Services, Education and Engagement, World Council

Saint Mary’s University offers a menu of program options spanning 3 days to 3 years (Master’s)

www.ManagementStudies.coop