



# Online, Part-time Degrees for Co-operative and Credit Union Professionals

The Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University offers business programs that provide skills needed for exceptional co-operative and credit union management and governance. These online, part-time programs cater to professionals currently or aspiring to be in a leadership position in a co-operative, credit union or mutual. Students, faculty and researchers are drawn from around the globe and from a diverse range of co-operative backgrounds, enriching the learning community with their experience.

*"In this economy, people are hungry for alternatives. The co-operative business model offers a different approach to business – one based on community, democracy and sustainability. The Master's program gives co-op managers the tools they need to innovate and succeed. I can't speak highly enough of this program."*

-Erbin Crowell, Master's Graduate, Executive Director of Neighboring Food Co-op Association & Board Member, National Cooperative Business Association, USA

## About Co-ops By Co-ops For Co-ops

### **Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions**

3 years, online, part-time

### **Graduate Diploma in Co-operative Management**

16 months, online, part-time

### **Other Options**

- Certificate in Co-operative Management: 10 months, online, part-time
- Short Courses: 1 day– 1 week
- CanadaDE Credit Union Leadership Program
- Co-operative Study Tours



**Saint Mary's  
University**

International Centre  
for Co-operative  
Management



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# Master's & Graduate Diploma Programs

## Key Benefits

- Deepen your understanding of all facets of the co-operative enterprise model.
- Become a more effective co-operative executive, manager or employee.
- Access a global network of students, graduates, faculty and researchers.
- Gain a broader perspective through international and cross-sector exposure.
- Contribute value to your co-operative by using it as a living lab to apply learning.

## Fit for the Co-operative Model

The Master's and Graduate Diploma programs immerse co-operative practitioners in the values and principles of cooperation, propelling them towards remarkable growth and impact in their careers. Our [curriculum](#) explores:

- the origins and evolution of co-operatives
- global economy and society
- the enterprise model
- strategy and innovation
- governance and participation
- accounting and finance
- marketing
- organizational behaviour and leadership
- digital transformation and communication.

## What Graduates Say

"My experience during and after the Master's program was significant and life-changing. Not only did I receive a world-class graduate degree, but I also developed a co-operative network I've maintained to this day. The education, academic and practical, in global co-operative affairs, positioned me to be a better co-operative leader. I connected with my values on sustainability, social enterprise and elevating the human condition as a co-operator in a global movement. I would recommend this program to anyone interested in alternative business models and global economic issues."

-Jessica Baker, Co-operators, Canada

## Graduate Survey

- 100% of graduates would recommend their program.
- 95% of students were satisfied with their program.
- Nearly 80% said the program significantly changed how they see, think about and do their jobs.





# Program Highlights

## Orientation

In August before classes begin, Master's and Graduate Diploma students take part in a 5-day face-to-face orientation at Saint Mary's University to kick start the program and build relationships with students and faculty.

## Co-operative Study Tour

The Field Research course is an integral part of the Master's program and includes an international co-operative study tour. This is an opportunity for hands-on learning focused on exemplary models of co-operation. Get exposure to co-operative innovations, network with leaders, interrogate problems and witness solutions. Students embark on a 10-day tour to Mondragón, Spain or Emilia-Romagna, Italy.

## Independent Research Project

For the Master's program, this final research project course gives students the chance to apply their learning to their co-operative or credit union or to the co-operative sector more broadly. Students design a project that interests them and leverages the knowledge they have gained throughout the program. They are matched with a faculty member or expert from our community as a supervisor to support the process.

## Faculty

Students can expect to dive into critical issues affecting the co-operative economy with the support and guidance from committed and quality researchers and practitioners, many with direct ties to the co-operative sector. The online nature of our programs enables us to work with experts internationally.

## What Graduates Say

"My choice to embark on this Master's program was the second most important decision of my life – after marrying my wife! I could not get enough of the readings, lectures and class discussions. I expanded my knowledge weekly and made critical connections with others in co-ops from around the world."

-Stephen Gill, VME Co-op and Coop Exchange, Scotland

## Program Costs

- Masters: \$35,000 CAD
- Diploma: \$16,000 CAD

Subject to change. Travel and incidentals are excluded. Additional fees apply if Graduate Diploma students select the study tour course as an elective.





## Programs Tailored to You

### Study and Grow Your Career

- Masters: 3 years | 42 credit hours
- Diploma: 16 months | 21 credit hours
- Certificate: 10 months | 5 courses non-credit professional development with advanced standing if going on to Masters or Graduate Diploma

Programs are structured to allow students to work while studying. Anticipate a workload of 15-20h/week or 8-10h/week for the Certificate Program (mostly asynchronous).

### Building Blocks

Our programs are designed as building blocks so students can expand their learning journey to their needs and liking. Certificate students can go on to the larger programs and be given advanced standing in those five courses. It is also easy to switch between the Graduate Diploma and Master's program.

### Certificate Program

The Certificate in Co-operative Management is a non-credit professional development program (online, part-time) for co-operative practitioners who want to expand their knowledge of co-operative and credit union management tools and best practices. The program includes five courses related to the history of the movement, the enterprise model, strategic advantage, governance and innovation. The program cost is \$7,000 CAD (subject to change).

### What Graduates Say

"I really enjoyed my education and got a lot out of it right from the first semester. It has provided me with confidence in my leadership role and I am more willing to make bold suggestions and contribute in new ways to my organization. Networking is big for me. Seeing people in your cohort in leadership in their co-op makes you a better leader in your co-op." Michelle Cooper-Iversen, Co-operative Housing Federation of BC, Canada



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