

# Experiential Education and Lifelong Learning Solutions

**Experience matters.** Northeastern University has long been a global leader in experiential education. Our cooperative education (co-op) program—which integrates alternating periods of academic study and full-time professional work experiences related to students’ academic majors and interests—has been the cornerstone of our educational model for more than a century.

The full scope of Northeastern’s experiential learning offerings extends well beyond its undergraduate co-op program, to work-based and workforce-driven programming across the education continuum. Those experiences include virtual internships for high school students, accelerated pathways programs for community college students to gain Master’s degrees in in-demand fields, and employer-aligned PhD programs. Indeed, experiential learning must be lifelong learning.

The effectiveness and reach of our experiential learning programming is enhanced by a network of more than 3,000 employer partners in industry, government, and the non-profit sector across the country and around the world. This network enables Northeastern practitioners to tap into a wide array of employer input on workforce challenges, skills and talent needs, and what best equips students to enter the workforce and existing workers to excel and advance.



Northeastern is in the solutions business.

These are just a few examples of the types of nimble, responsive partnerships we’ve forged with employers and public and private partners to help solve workforce challenges and meet learners where they are. We stand ready to help solve additional workforce challenges at scale—to pilot new ideas and run experiments, and to scale innovative programs that align with the demonstrated goals and priorities.

# Forging novel partnerships.

Northeastern is leading the way in developing innovative, industry-aligned experiential learning partnerships, including:

- **Align:** Through a cohort-based learning model, the Align Master of Science in Computer Science provides a supportive community of engaged peers. Academic bridge courses prepare students of any undergraduate discipline for graduate level coursework that includes program design, computer systems, and software development—as well as a range of electives that allow you to tailor the degree to your personal and professional goals. Align is built on a core belief that computer and data science are for everyone, regardless of background. Align provides a direct pathway to a MS in data science or computer science for students from all undergraduate backgrounds – no prior experience is required.
- **Biotech Associate's to Master's (A2M) Program:** This program offers low-income and underrepresented minority students a fast track to earning associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in biotechnology and prepares them for careers in the life sciences. The National Science Foundation awarded Northeastern a \$4.4 million grant to fund more than 500 scholarships of up to \$10K per year per student at Middlesex Community College. The A2M model is now being deployed in information technology in partnership with Bunker Hill Community College as well.
- **Life Science Apprenticeships:** Northeastern is the educational provider for MassBioEd's Life Science Apprenticeship Program. Fifteen employer partners—including Bristol Myers Squibb, Pfizer, and others—gain access to a pool of work-ready candidates from the across Massachusetts with skills matched to their needs. Learners gain foundational knowledge and acquire industry-recognized skills and a job guarantee upon completion of the program. The curricula also stack into certificate and degree programs. Of the initial 2021 cohort of 30 apprentices, 26 percent are immigrants, 60 percent people of color, and 63 percent women.
- **On-the-job Bachelor's Degree in Advanced Manufacturing Systems:** Originally facilitated by a U.S. Department of Education Experimental Site Initiative designation, Northeastern developed a Bachelor of Science in Advanced Manufacturing Systems on-site at GE manufacturing plants, bringing the opportunity for educational advancement and on-the-job experiential learning right to where learners are. The same curriculum provided on site for GE employees is now also offered to the learners at Springfield Technical Community College.
- **Work Immersion Network:** Northeastern is partnering with the Massachusetts Governor's STEM Advisory Council and the Executive Office of Education to make work-based learning virtual internships available to help students at vocational high schools across Massachusetts explore STEM careers, build early STEM mindsets, and learn early digital and professional skills. The same virtual learning platform has also helped expand the City of Boston youth summer jobs program.

