



What is Experiential Education?

Experiential Education (EE) facilitates learning through the application of academic theory to a concrete experience, typically outside the classroom with observation and reflection. EE provides rich learning opportunities, within the classroom, the community, the workplace, or virtually, to advance the learning outcomes of a course or academic program while fostering a positive student experience and student career development. Experiential Learning (EL) can include both curricular and co-curricular opportunities. UWindsor has established a typology that identifies curricular EL pedagogies, each distinguished by differing characteristics. These pedagogies include:

- applied research
- clinic
- co-op
- professional practicum
- capstone
- community service learning
- field experience or site visit
- interactive simulation
- industry/community consulting project
- creative performance/exhibit
- research project
- entrepreneurship
- field work
- internship
- study abroad

The [Office of the Executive Director, Experiential Learning](#) has a team of dedicated staff in two departments who work to identify, structure, implement and support EL opportunities and career development programming across the University, in collaboration with partners around and beyond campus. Our shared goal is to enhance academic studies with career development programming and support faculty members' EL initiatives to ensure students are successful beyond graduation. [Click here for a PDF summary of our 2022-23 annual report.](#)

The role of [Co-operative Education & Workplace Partnerships](#)

Career and employer relations professionals work with academic programs to facilitate the placement of students into paid learning opportunities outside the classroom (i.e., co-ops and internships), including assisting with academic admissions, program coordination, delivery of job readiness training, workplace monitoring, employer relations, opportunity development, reflection, and assessment. Co-op and internship programs are currently offered in selected graduate and undergraduate programs in Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Kinesiology, Physics, and Chemistry & Biochemistry. **New for 2024 there are 10 new co-op programs launched within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.**

The role of [Career Development & Experiential Learning](#)

EL professionals and faculty-aligned career advisors offer programming, events, and services aimed at preparing students for the transition from the classroom to the world of work, including:

- [Free workshops](#) on topics related to career development and employment;
- Individual [career advising](#) appointments with professional staff;
- **Career assessments** and interest inventories with qualified staff;
- **Mock interviews** for job or professional school applications;
- [Drop-in hours](#) and **resume critiques** run by specially trained peers;
- Networking and **recruitment events** including job fairs and employer information sessions;
- Online **job postings** targeted to students and recent alumni;
- 3 co-curricular EL opportunities:
 - [Ignite Work Study](#) funds part-time jobs on campus to offer financial benefit and skills development
 - [Job Shadow Experience](#) connects students with professionals in a career field of interest
 - [VIP: Community Service Learning](#) matches students with a placement at a local non-profit

What support is available to Faculty?



Figure 1: Career Development Cycle

We support faculty members to integrate EL into their practice by providing resources, programming, and consultation. Whether classroom-based (real or virtual), community-based, or work-focused, we are here to help connect your students with UWindsor employers and community partners to provide them with a rich learning experience, imparting skills and knowledge to prepare them for whatever comes next for them.

In addition, we partner with faculty members to embed career development into their curriculum, using our Career Development Cycle framework to help students navigate career and life decisions as a student and throughout the rest of their working lives.

Many faculty members provide co-curricular EL opportunities by participating in our [Ignite Work Study](#) or [Co-op](#) programs as supervisors and hiring students.

What are the career competencies faculty could consider including within their curriculum?

Our unit focuses on five core career competencies when working with students. These competencies have been selected based on what organizations have identified as important for candidates to demonstrate and students are encouraged to develop them prior to graduation and throughout their professional lives.



Communication



Critical thinking and
problem solving



Teamwork and
collaboration



Professionalism and
work ethic



Career Management

3 things we wish all instructors knew about our services

- 1. We need your help to reach students!** Please consider reinforcing the importance of career development with your students by inviting us into your class to make a presentation or facilitate an activity. We can work with you to customize material and messaging specific to your curriculum and students. As students seek career and job search advice from you, we encourage you to refer them to us for additional support.
- 2. We'd love to hear how you're incorporating EL into your curriculum!** As a key strategy for ensuring today's students are prepared for the future of work with the skills they need to thrive, EL is a priority for UWindsor as well as for our national and provincial stakeholders. Let us know about the EL you're facilitating so we can celebrate with you and feature your work to inspire others and solicit interest.
- 3. We want to work with you!** We are always looking to support faculty in facilitating EL and career development within the University's academic programs. Contact us to see how we can collaborate!

Location and Contact Information



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