Experiential Learning: An Ontario College Overview

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The College Landscape

- Active in the WIL/EL space
- College’s have assessed course-level opportunities
- WIL landscape well defined
  - Co-op and Field Placements in particular
1. Colleges Ontario Heads of Co-operative Education (HOC)
2. ORBIS College User Group
3. Career Ready College Project Managers
College Typologies

Colleges alignment with CEWIL definitions

Ministry Career Ready guidelines
Experiential Learning at Conestoga

MTCU Experiential Learning Checklist
- Student is in a workplace or simulated workplace
- Student is exposed to authentic demands that improve their employability, interpersonal skills, and transition to the workforce
- Experience is structured with purposeful and meaningful activities
- Student applies university or college program knowledge and/or essential employability skills
- Experience includes student self-assessment and evaluation of the student's performance and learning outcomes by the employer and/or the university/college
- The experience counts towards the course credit or credential completion OR is formally recognized by the college or university as meeting the five criteria above

* Embedded in program or course design

** Embedded in program or course design and includes 3rd party engagement, eg. Employer, industry or community partner

*** Student driven - May or may not be program-related, and/or not embedded in program or course design
The Numbers

Experiential Learning at Conestoga (% of Programs)

- Experiential Learning: 93%
- Non-Experiential Learning: 7%
WIL at Conestoga

- **Co-op** vs. **Non Co-op**
  - Co-op: 25%
  - Non Co-op: 75%

- **Field Placement** vs. **No Field Placement**
  - Field Placement: 15%
  - No Field Placement: 85%

- **Apprenticeship** vs. **Non Apprenticeship**
  - Apprenticeship: 10%
  - Non Apprenticeship: 90%

- **Industry Sponsored Research** vs. **No Industry Sponsor Research**
  - Industry Sponsored Research: 10%
  - No Industry Sponsor Research: 90%
Co-op

25%

75%

Co-op Non Co-op
Field Placement

- Field Placement: 15%
- No Field Placement: 85%
Industry Sponsored Research

- 10% Industry Sponsored Research
- 90% No Industry Sponsor Research
EL at Conestoga

- 80% Teaching Lab
- No Teaching Lab
- 20% Instructor led Field Experience
- No Field Experience
- 25% Project Based Course Work
- No Project Based Course Work
- 10% Interactive Simulation
- No Interactive Simulation
Project Based Course Work

- 75% No Project Based Course Work
- 25% Project Based Course Work
Field Experience

- Instructor led Field Experience: 20%
- No Field Experience: 80%
Interactive Simulations

- Interactive Simulation: 10%
- No Interactive Simulation: 90%
Apprenticeship

- Ministry involvement
- Training is created by Ministry
- Delivered by Colleges
Applied Research Best Practice
The Challenges

- Course-level tracking
- Section-level differences
- MTCU 6 EL criteria
- Consistent definition
Creating new industry partners

College renewed focus on Experiential Learning

Dedicated WIL/EL Centre at Colleges

Supporting Industry Partnerships
The Next Steps

- Colleges continue to move forward
- Track WIL and EL opportunities that Colleges are already offering
- Report on the number of experiences
Thank you to the following Institutions and Organizations: