



## Social Work Research: Making a Difference in Communities...

The School of Social Work invites you to collaborate with students who can apply their theoretical capabilities to your research needs. As we prepare students to become critical practitioners and agents of social change, it is crucial for students to have an understanding of social issues facing social service institutions today. While you will gain from relevant academic research through students enrolled in this university course, you will also support student learning.

### Course Description

In the course 'Fundamentals of Social Work Research', students work in groups to design, research, and implement ethical research strategies in collaboration with a select number of non-profit organizations. This learning collaboration provides you the opportunity to launch new initiatives or revisit previous endeavours. Student participants gain skills relevant for effective program design, development, and future employment in the field of Social Work – while providing you tangible benefits and outcomes.

Community Based Learning (CBL) is a form of engaged learning that blends theory and coursework with practical, experience. As part of their academic studies, students apply key course concepts to a wide variety of organizational issues and problem sets stemming from corporations & not-for-profit organizations.

Participation in the 'Fundamentals of Social Work Research' course can **benefit your organization** as students lend their theoretical knowledge to your research projects with the aim of helping your organization meet its' goals

## Students can partner with you to:



"The two biggest benefits were definitely time, and cost savings. It was not a big effort to come into the classroom and the results exceeded the effort. I really appreciated the student contributions"

Liz Holmes PhD  
Research & Evaluation  
Coordinator  
Family Service Toronto

- Conduct literature reviews, analyze, and summarize current methods of research in a particular context
- Discover how your organization operates in practice in light of conceptual and theoretical knowledge and information found in current literature
- Explore and formulate a practical course of action to improve your organization's service delivery to vulnerable populations and other persons in need, using "evidence based" research methods.
- Identify creative and strategic solutions to deal with key challenges facing your organization and the provision of program(s)
- Provide a detailed presentation on a critical issue or problem confronting your workplace
- Perform "action" based research to generate, inform, and guide strategy



# Become involved with our students

## How Community Based Learning (CBL) Works...



As a community representative, **you have the opportunity to come into the classroom** and act as a genuine co-educator. You are invited to work with York Faculty members and the Senior Manager of Experiential Education to define research topics, or policy initiatives that are pertinent to your organization and that fit course parameters.

Once **the challenges are defined**, you will present these to students, whereupon **small student teams select the topics** that they will work on for course credit. We encourage you to present multiple problem sets to the class: this enables you to hear a wide variety of perspectives, across a range of concerns and issues pertinent to your organization.

**Student teams will periodically be in touch with you.** At semester's end, you will be invited back to attend **short, focused team presentations** and at that time, you will have the opportunity to **provide constructive feedback** on the teams' performance. This forum acts as fertile ground for robust learning and provides a true co-education opportunity in support of community based learning. **You will also be provided with a pre-screened**, research paper prior to your return to supplement the discussion. [*\*free parking included when you visit the York campus*]

## What we ask of you...

Currently, we are looking for community representatives that are knowledgeable in these subject areas to develop research questions for student teams. Participating representatives are asked to commit to two class visits, over three months and speak candidly about the issues they face. The first visit will be mid September and the last visit, at the end of November.

Community groups gain from Experiential Education's innovative Community Based Learning (CBL) program. CBL makes it easy for you to utilize the insights and dedication of our students and faculty to address your organizational difficulties.

- RECENT PARTICIPANTS:**
- The Social Economy Centre
  - Canadian Women's Foundation
  - University Health Network
  - United Way
  - UNICEF
  - Family Service Toronto
  - Trillium Gift of Life Network
  - METRAC
  - CARE Canada
  - North York Literary Council
  - Canadian Red Cross

**Next Steps**  
To learn more, contact Himanshi Joshi, Experiential Education Coordinator at (416)736-2100 (ext. 22514) or email [himjoshi@yorku.ca](mailto:himjoshi@yorku.ca) with any questions.

Have a look at our comprehensive website: [www.atkinson.yorku.ca/ee](http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/ee)

- Client testimonials
- Video streaming clips
- Project Write-ups/descriptions