



Community Based Learning (CBL) – Our students working to resolve your organization's problems

The Experiential Education (EE) Office of LA&PS can assist you in solving an organizational issue or problem. This arrangement is time light, enlivens the classroom, and enables students to work with experienced people working in a variety of industry sectors while offering their unique ideas and fresh perspective.

Bringing the “Real World” into the classroom...

Organizations facing real problems are matched with courses on a basis of core course concepts that the instructor identifies; once a match is found, clients are invited to attend a class where they present a current challenge and ask for research support from students.

Under the guidance of a professor, students provide insight and analysis to the client by collaborating throughout the semester. By doing so learning becomes very closely linked to the central objectives of the organization. This provides tangible benefits to both the organization and the student.

How it works...

A professor approaches the Experiential Education Office and suggests topics that an outside organizational partner could bring to the course. The EE Office sources partnerships that fit with the course objectives and the capabilities of the students – we want to ensure a win-win situation.

Should you wish to move forward, you will attend one class early in the Fall semester to present an overview of your current policy environment as it relates to key learning objectives. A small group of students will then work with you throughout the semester, and will present you with a finished product in December.

The course we are currently sourcing projects for is a senior 4th year public policy course: *Public Policy and Administration Capstone*, taught by Professor Thomas Klassen. The high-performing students can partner with you to:

1. **Conduct** an environmental scan
2. **Synthesize** documents and other information
3. **Articulate** policy research questions, compile a relevant bibliography and identify additional data sources
4. **Employ** the best practices identified in the program evaluation literature to suggest approaches to evaluation
5. **Communicate** research findings clearly and effectively both in oral and written format

This link is a partial list of organizations involved in recent ‘learning made live’ CBL endeavors (scroll over the organization's name for a project overview)

http://www.yorku.ca/laps/ee/current_projects.html

What we ask of you is easy...

All you need to do is pick up the phone, or make an appointment to speak with us about your organization's requirements, and we will coordinate the rest!

Next Steps

Contact Geoff Webb in the FLA&PS EE Office, ext. 33453 gwebb@yorku.ca

CBL is a form of engaged learning that blends theory and coursework with practical, hands on experience. As part of their academic studies, LA&PS students are able to apply key course concepts to a wide variety of organizational issues and problem sets stemming from real-world issues.