



## Program and Policy Evaluation to assist your organization

### Linking the classroom to various levels of government and NGOs...

The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies is committed to ensuring its students are well prepared to take on professional roles in today's changing economy. We address real world issues that affect the complex societies in which we live with a unique interdisciplinary approach.

This course housed at the School of Public Policy and Administration centers around providing 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate students the methodological tools necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in the public sector (federal, provincial, municipal government or their agencies) and in the not-for-profit sector. Normally the studies are conducted by groups of two or three students supervised by a faculty member in the following manner:

- If you are considering a new program or policy, the students would design and carry out a needs assessment.
- If you have a new program, the students would design a formative evaluation to help you prepare for a program evaluation.
- If a program evaluation is needed, the students would design and implement a summative evaluation.



As part of this Community Based Learning (CBL) undertaking, students will apply their theoretical knowledge to a problem set derived from an actual organization. Course content will be learned through engaging with an actual context that links to key course concepts. For participating organizations this is a cost-free and time-light initiative that encourages students to blend academic requirements with a 'hands-on' endeavor. Students aim to provide effective solutions to challenges facing organizations as a core part of their course requirements. This 'learning by doing' approach enables them to tackle your needs in a unique learning endeavor where confidentiality, privacy, ethics and research protocols are given fundamental consideration.

### How does it work?

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the experiential education program as the level of work is of consistently high quality and has helped me in my role at the Red Cross achieve key goals and objectives."

**Lynda Watson**  
Canadian Red Cross – York Region

This initiative brings the real world into their classroom and enables students to understand course concepts in a non-placement arrangement, with the end goal of presenting to you and your organization an analytical paper with actionable recommendations and solutions. This approach provides benefits to both the partnering organization and LA&PS students – a true win-win for everyone involved.

You will work with a small team to formulate a research question that matters to you and that links directly to course objectives and learning outcomes. Professor Alena Kimakova, who has extensive experience in the fields of public policy analysis, program evaluation and economic development, will provide guidance and feedback throughout the process.

### Why partner with us?

CBL at York provides to organizations the unique opportunity to act as genuine co-educators while permitting students to engage in relevant projects and concerns that directly impact organizations in the community. You will help to make a significant difference for their learning experience, while benefiting from up-to-date academic knowledge and expertise.



## Public Policy Research to assist your organization

[www.yorku.ca/laps/ee](http://www.yorku.ca/laps/ee)

### Students can partner with you to:

- **Articulate** policy research questions, compile a relevant bibliography and identify potential data sources.
- **Differentiate** between various types of program evaluation, their objectives, and methodological tools
- **Design** a suitable program evaluation scheme/approach
- **Implement** a program assessment and make recommendations for improvement
- **Communicate** research findings clearly and effectively both in oral and written format

Participation in a 'Program Evaluation' course can benefit your organization as students lend their theoretical knowledge to your public policy projects with the aim of helping your organization meet its' goals

### RECENT PARTICIPANTS:

- United Way Toronto  
[www.unitedwaytoronto.com](http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com)
- Canadian Red Cross  
[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)
- Ontario Nonprofit Network  
[www.ontariononprofitnetwork.ca](http://www.ontariononprofitnetwork.ca)
- Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General  
[www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/)
- Ontario Ministry of Transportation  
[www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment  
[www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca)

### Program features:

- Flexibility and comprehensiveness: upper year students will address concerns that matter to your organization and that align with key course parameters.
- Students are guided by a renowned and highly respected professor who has extensive background working with not-for-profit groups.
- You obtain a useful end product while students add a valuable hands-on component to their course experience and enliven their learning.

### There are only a few things we ask in return from you as a participant:

- A willingness to work with students on a social or economic policy issue across two semesters.
- The opportunity to provide feedback at least two times during each semester as this is a two-phase engagement.

Phase one - design work - would take place in the Fall 2010 term (September through November 2010) and involves a handful of meetings and follow-up emails. This phase concludes with a report and a presentation of the results, either on campus, by phone or at your organization.

Phase two study implementation would take place in the Winter 2011 term (January through March 2011) and concludes with a report and a presentation of the results. Partner organizations are selected according to a fit between their requirements and course objectives.

"Our upper year students are eager to tackle some of today's most critical program evaluations. You'll benefit from their fresh perspective and sophisticated skills; and their key insights enable them to develop innovative solutions that you can apply in your workplace."

**Alena Kimakova**  
Economics & Public Policy Professor

To learn more, contact Geoff Webb, Senior Manager of Experiential Education  
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Have a look at our comprehensive website: [www.yorku.ca/laps/ee](http://www.yorku.ca/laps/ee)

- Client/partner testimonials
- Video streaming clips of EE in action
- Project Write-ups/descriptions across disciplines