

Pedagogics.

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Exploring Experiential Education

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"Take advantage of opportunities that come. You don't know
where life leads you, so ask questions and be curious!"

- LL



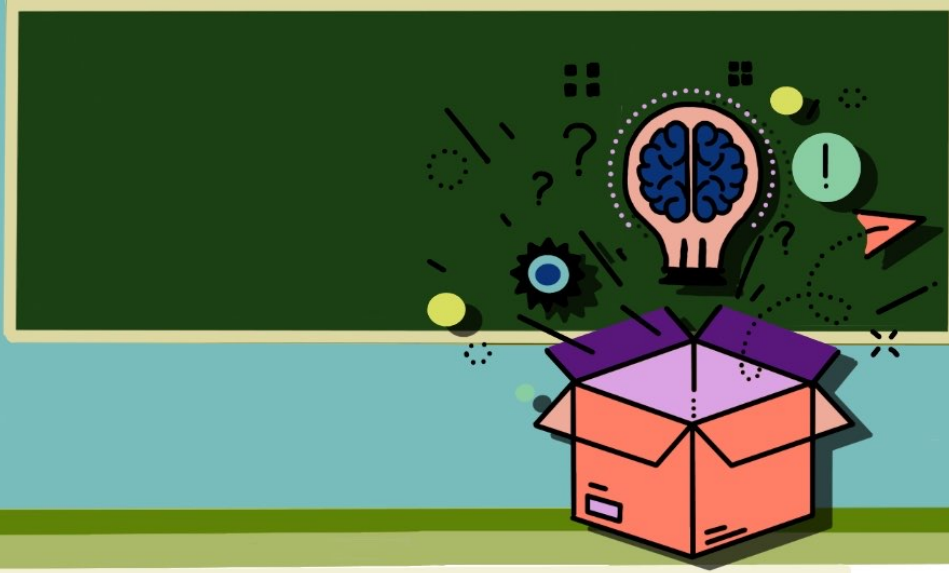
Exclusive Interviews with Top Brass of the Experiential Education World: What YOU Need to Know

We were lucky enough to snag some interviews with the best of the best from the Experiential Education world and gain insight into this incredible corner of the educational landscape.

However some of you may be wondering, what exactly does a job in Experiential Education entail? As described by one of our incredible interviewees,

“To navigate and facilitate relationships and partnerships with school boards, faculty members, supervisor for practicum students/work with stakeholders to set up with York and other partnerships with schools and programs.”

However there is still more to this role as oftentimes they also take up counseling responsibilities and deal with students during many different phases of their academic journey. Students often seek out experiential education looking for options besides just becoming a teacher such as becoming a Learning Strategist for a corporation, Curriculum Developer at policy level with the government, Educational Developer for recreational companies or even Instructors and Program Developers at recreational centers.



With companies' need for educational instructors on the rise as well, the time to try experiential education has never been better according to our experts. As with any career there are positives and negatives. Seeing the students' growth and the relationships that develop between both the student and their placement, and the school and the placement is something that brings joy to everyone we interviewed. As with many jobs in the education industry there is a huge reliance on communication and relationship building, which our interviewees put as a high point. However the sheer amount of people involved in each placement can place stress and high workloads onto the experiential educators. Currently with health restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic it has been even harder to get placements. However all the interviewees concur on the fact that the stress and workload is heavily outweighed by the great sense of joy gained in this position.

For those looking into how to get into the experiential education field it is recommended that you think outside the box and find non-traditional pathways of how to get a career, instead of just relying on the typical school routes. Another great asset to those looking to join this field is the ability to network, and to do it while young! The connections you can build while in university with professors and others could be vital to your success in this career.

Check out our quiz on page 12 to see if this career path is the right fit for you to consider!



Deep Diving into Experiential Education: *What Does it Entail*

Individuals working in the field of experiential education play a crucial role in guiding and setting the path for students who are interested in experiencing different careers in education. Assistants and directors in experiential education work with staff, students and community partners to coordinate practicums for students in schools and universities.

Actors in this department are responsible for handling a variety of tasks. All things that are necessary to provide students with a smooth and successful hands-on learning experience in the real world will be managed first handedly by the faculty of experiential education. They are not only coordinators of experiential education, but also, counsellors, and administrators. Creating, maintaining, and sustaining relationships with various community organizations and schools boards is a valued component to this profession. The greater the networks available, the easier it will be to accommodate student interests and aid them in the accomplishment of their personal goals and professional skill developments.



Some Roles and Responsibilities of this position include:

- Setting up placements and practicums for students in various settings (schools, uni, college etc.)
- Providing students with counselling services when under distress about their futures
- Maintaining communication with community partners to stay up to date with student progress
- Administrative work in getting students prepared to enter a placement; from collecting necessary legal documents completed from students and other involved parties. Ensuring students have completed the required safety modules etc.
- Keeping track of student portfolios
- Manage any issues that may arise from work places

Curious if a
career in
*Experiential
Education*
is for you?

Turn to page
12 to find your
answer!



Experiential Education: How Do I Get There?

When figuring out the path of your future career it's easy to think that it's going to be a straight-forward or cut and dry approach, when in reality more often than not the path in which you take to your ideal career is much more open. Experiential Education is no different! Below are the recommended steps for how to pursue a career in experiential education, however, how you achieve your goals should be flexible and you may find an entirely alternative approach to reaching this career! Think outside of the box. Think outside of non-traditional pathways of how to get a career. Don't just rely on what's dictated to you through your education, high school. There are many different ways of finding growth.

1. Graduate from High School!
2. Achieve a Bachelor's Degree (Any Area of Discipline will work!)

A position in Experiential Education can be achieved with just the above credentials, however, the other listed credentials will be beneficial.

3. Achieve a Bachelor's Degree of Education
4. Achieve a Master Degree of Education

** TIP: A person changes their career at least 7 times in their life. So, don't feel like you have to make an immediate decision that's going to determine the rest of your career and life. Just decide based on what feels right for you at that moment. **

Experiential Education: How Do I Get There?

Some other areas of experience that would be beneficial for this pursuit are

- Experience in education and teaching.
- Developing relationships and connections with the local community.
 - Build connections with your community.
 - Relevant volunteer work (ie. Career Services).
 - Any counselling roles (roles that facilitate learning to manage difficult individuals, and de-escalating emotional struggles).
 - Networking! Especially when you are young because once you graduate a lot of networking opportunities won't be as available to you.

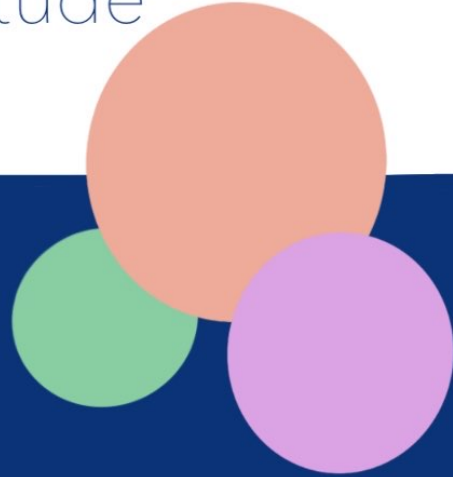




Let's Break It Down: Recommended Skills and Aptitude



TEACH



As with any other job and or career, there are certain skills and aptitudes an individual should have in order to increase their success in their performance and outcomes. Before we discuss what skills, you may be wondering what skills and aptitudes mean. Skills are the expertise or talent needed to perform a job. It may take determination and practice, but it is impossible to learn or improve, according to the dictionary. Aptitudes include the natural ability to do something, a component of a competence to do a specific thing.

Let's Break It Down:

Recommended Skills and Aptitude

Now that skills and aptitudes have been defined, let's talk about what is required for working in Experiential Education! Experiential Education requires individuals to, first, develop good communication skills. There are three types of communication skills: oral, visual and written. Individuals in this career need to be able to communicate in various ways with various people and or groups.

Individuals would need to have learned and improved in critical and creative thinking skills. Use that creativity to think of new solutions and innovations with a critical analysis!

There are many interpersonal skills one would need to work in Experiential Education. One would need to develop conflict management, leadership, social and cultural agility, and teamwork and collaboration. These skills would ensure that workers in this job would be able to work with people, solve problems and produce solutions to a multitude of issues.

All of these skills would result in learning project management skills. Decision-making, information management, planning and organizing, and time management are all skills individuals would have to develop and strengthen (University of Guelph). People wanting to work in this line of work would be required to be able to make decisions for various tasks and conflicts, while being able to efficiently and effectively plan and organize tasks, events and activities in a timely manner to ensure they are completed by a specific date/time. Do you have the skills/aptitudes it takes?

EDUCATION



A Day in the Life of an Experiential Educator

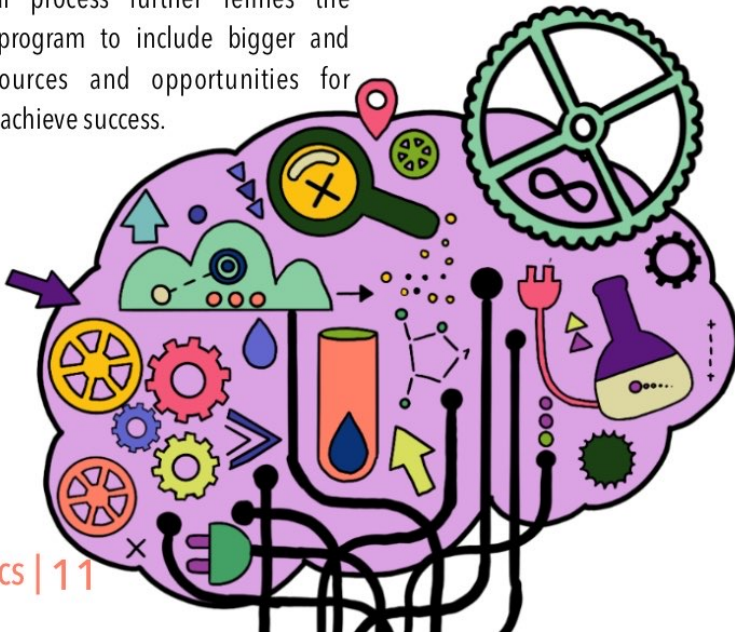
One of the best aspects of being an experiential educator it's variety, so expect each day to be colourful. Or in better terms of what a typical day looks like from experiential educator assistant S.N "Day-to-day...I cannot really say because it changes so much."

As you know, one of the main aspects of this profession is strategizing how to meet the needs of students and implementing newly found solutions into future programs. Experiential educator L.L explains "EE is unique in that it goes in academic course and programs conversations and student services conversations, and graduate related stuff." This critical process further refines the education program to include bigger and better resources and opportunities for students to achieve success.

Working in a post secondary setting means you also have the opportunity to work closely with those in the school community including people inside and outside the faculty, various school boards, and university partners , further strengthening those relationships and creating networks. Expect frequent meetings, administrative work, answering emails and reviewing legal documents throughout the day to stay in touch and up dated with all your clientele.

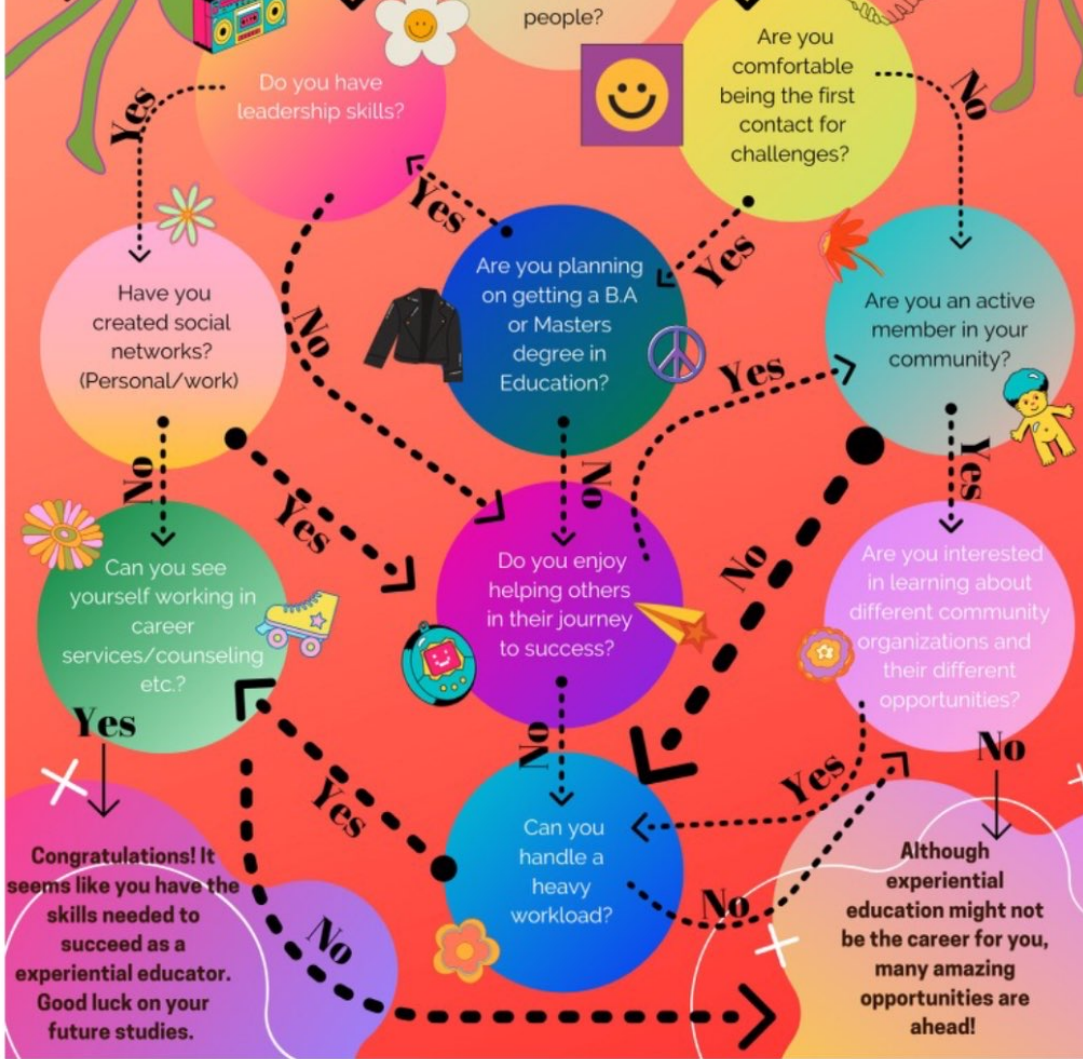
S.N confesses "In the faculty of Ed because of Covid it is very active right now...it goes up to the level of policy being changed the next week..." It is critical for Experiential Educators to be up-to-date with any policies and

implement new guidelines efficiently especially during this unprecedented time. The variety that comes in this professions day to day makes it unique and will keep you on your toes.



Are you a Future & Experiential Educator?

See if experiential education is the perfect profession for you! Follow the yes or no arrows to get your results!



A Guiding Light for Future Experiential Educators

Having a mentor or someone to advise various aspects of life is vital, as sometimes you can't see outside your situation and just need a word of encouragement. As experiential educators, it's their job to be a student's guiding light when they can't seem to find away. This profession is primarily based on building and fostering relationships with those you work with. Taking the time to get to know your school community will help build trust and ensure the best possible solutions for obstacles. For example, by taking the time to learn what work environment your student won't be successful in, you can suggest places tailored to their personality. Also, through maintaining these relationships, you develop more exemplary interpersonal skills to make connections. It's always good to have a book of contacts in your back pocket to call on, so start networking as early as you can.



You never know when you'll need it, and graduates tend to lose important networking opportunities. Before post-secondary, most students are exposed to the typical professions within the school walls, including the principles, secretaries, janitor, school cook and additional staff. Future experiential educators are encouraged to think outside the box in terms of paths to their future careers. Do further research and inquire from the professionals around you, as you never know what opportunities they hold. Utilizing different advice to enter and thrive in this profession will set you up for success.