Baseline Survey Results – Experiential Education
May 2012

Background & Methodology
As stated in the University Academic Plan (2010 – 2015), one of York's highest priorities is to recruit and retain quality graduate and undergraduate students. To do this, we need to ensure that our curricular offerings are addressing the changing needs of our students and that our teaching faculty members feel supported. Two approaches that York has identified as important elements of our teaching and learning strategy going forward are Experiential Education (a pedagogical approach that blends theory and coursework with applied experience) and eLearning (which involves the electronic delivery of all or some academic instruction via computers and the Web.)   To help identify the various types of experiential education and eLearning a 'Common Language' document was developed to describe ways of employing EE and eLearning in more detail. This document can be found on the Academic Innovation Fund website: http://aifprojects.yorku.ca/.

In the Fall of 2011, Sue Vail, associate vice-president, Teaching and Learning undertook a baseline survey to determine the extent to which eLearning delivery was being used at the University.   An online survey was developed and implemented with the assistance of staff from the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis beginning in the Fall of 2011 and into the Winter semester 2012.

In total, 1,527 full and part time faculty were surveyed representing 3,405 undergraduate classes across all Faculties at the university. Each faculty member was asked to identify the type of experiential education employed for each course and to provide comments as required.

After an extensive round of surveying and follow up, an overall response rate of 57% was achieved representing 1,909 courses.   It was deemed that the sample was of suitable size to establish a baseline for the university.

Summary of Results
The largest number of courses appeared to be delivered with in-course learning activities (36.4%) with a much smaller proportion of courses using academic service learning (5.5%) in-course community based learning (4.0%) and other experiential education (15.2%) A large proportion of courses had no experiential education (35.9%).

Experiential education opportunities appeared to be more predominate in the senior levels for many of the categories – academic community service learning (7.1% in year 4 vs 3.8% in year 1) in-course community based learning (7.4% in year 4 vs 0.7% in year 1) Moreover, the proportion of courses with experiential education opportunities appears to increase with year of study.

As expected there was significant variation in program delivery across Faculties with the Faculty of Education and Osgoode having the largest proportion of opportunities. The type of experiential education opportunities also varied significantly by Faculty with Schulich having a relatively high proportion of academic community service learning and the Faculty of Environmental Studies having the highest proportion of in-course community based learning opportunities.

There was little variation in the type of delivery by type of instructor. However it appeared to be the case that part time faculty used more in-course learning activities and fewer in-course community based learning activities when compared to full time faculty.

Detailed results as well as breakdowns can be found in the attached table.

BASELINE SURVEY: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

1. OVERALL

	Overall
No experiential education	35.9
In-course learning activities	36.4
In-course community based learning	4.0
Academic community service learning	5.5
Placements	2.6
Internships	0.2
Co-op	0.2
Other experiential	15.2
Total	100.0

2. Full Time vs Part Time Faculty

	Full Time	Part Time
No experiential education	39.9	31.5
In-course learning activities	32.8	40.4
In-course community based learning	4.6	3.4
Academic community service learning	5.9	5.1
Placements	2.1	3.1
Internships	0.2	0.1
Co-op	0.1	0.3
Other experiential	14.4	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0

3. YEAR OF STUDY

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
No experiential education	45.5	37.1	31.1	33.9
In-course learning activities	40.6	37.1	38.8	32.4
In-course community based learning	0.7	2.6	4.7	7.4
Academic community service learning	3.8	5.9	5.6	7.1
Placements	-	2.1	3.3	4.1
Internships	-	0.6	0.2	-
Co-op	0.3	0.6	-	-
Other experiential	9.1	14.1	16.3	15.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4. FACULTY

	AP	ED	ES	FA	GL	HH	LW	SB	SC
No experiential education	42.3	8.8	28.6	16.2	49.4	29.0	25.0	46.7	46.8
In-course learning activities	34.0	43.9	38.1	40.1	33.8	40.4	37.5	33.3	34.5
In-course community based learning	4.0	5.3	9.5	4.2	1.3	4.5	12.5	-	2.9
Academic community service learning	5.8	9.6	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.5	-	13.3	2.9
Placements	0.3	16.7	-	1.4	1.3	5.3	12.5	-	1.4
Internships	-	-	-	0.7	1.3	-	-	-	0.7
Co-op	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	-
Other experiential	13.8	15.8	19.0	32.4	7.8	15.1	12.5	6.7	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0