

University of Toronto Experiential Learning Types and Definitions

The University of Toronto will tag experiential learning courses. In order to align with the University of Toronto typology to identify experiential learning courses, please use this chart to select the most relevant experiential learning type.

Partnership-Based Experiences:

Sub-Type	UTSC EL Focus Areas	Definition
Academic Internship	Work Integrated Learning (WIL)	A work experience that integrates academic learning with its application in a workplace. The experience has an in-class academic component. This type of experience is primarily intended to support the development of professional or industry-specific skills and competencies.
Professional Practicum	Work Integrated Learning (WIL)	A practice-based experience where students observe or assist a licensed or registered professional through the hands-on application of disciplinary concepts in a professional setting. This type of experience is typically a requirement for professional licensure or certification and is primarily intended to support professional competency development. Students do not have an independent workload/caseload while on practicum.
Partnered Field Experience	Work Integrated Learning (WIL)	A practice-based experience where students participate in components of a discipline or profession through the hands-on application of disciplinary concepts. This type of experience typically occurs under the direction or supervision of a non-faculty professional and is primarily intended to support professional and discipline-based competency development. Experiences where students are only observing professional activities (e.g. field trips) are not considered field experiences in this context.
Organization-Partnered Experience	Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Community Based Research (CBR) Innovation and Entrepreneurship (with community partner)	A project-based research, design, consultancy, creative or artistic work experience undertaken in partnership with a non-U of T organization. The primary purpose of the experience is typically praxis, knowledge exchange or dissemination, and/or the development of new knowledge, products, technologies or services.

University-Based Experiences:

Sub-Type	UTSC EL Focus Areas	Definition
Performance and Artistic Productions	In-class experiences	Students undertake or assist in projects and productions of audio, visual, theatrical or other forms of performance under the supervision of a U of T faculty or staff member. Experiences that take place in partnership with an external organization should be classified as organization-partnered experience.
Simulated Work Experience	Work Integrated Learning (WIL)	In-class experiences
Non-Partnered Field Experience	Work Integrated Learning (WIL)	Students either participate in or observe the application of disciplinary or professional practices under the direction or supervision of a U of T faculty or staff member. This type of experience is primarily intended to support professional or discipline-based competency development.
Advanced Design	In-class experiences	Students apply design methods, principles, and practices to a significant, open-ended design project. This type of experience typically involves the development of a design project from an initial concept to a final working prototype.
Advanced Laboratory	In-class experiences	Students participate in inquiry-based laboratory experiments and apply advanced tools and techniques used in research labs.
Research-Intensive	In-class experiences	Students undertake a substantial research project that includes some of the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student-generated or selected research questions, methodologies, conceptual frameworks, and project management plans; • analysis and synthesis of collected information or data, and; • demonstrate an understanding of research results in the context of the broader disciplinary literature.