

# KEY METRICS FOR EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

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# OUTLINE

- What is EE?
- What are the outcomes for students?
- How can we link outcomes to EE participation?
- How much EE is happening?

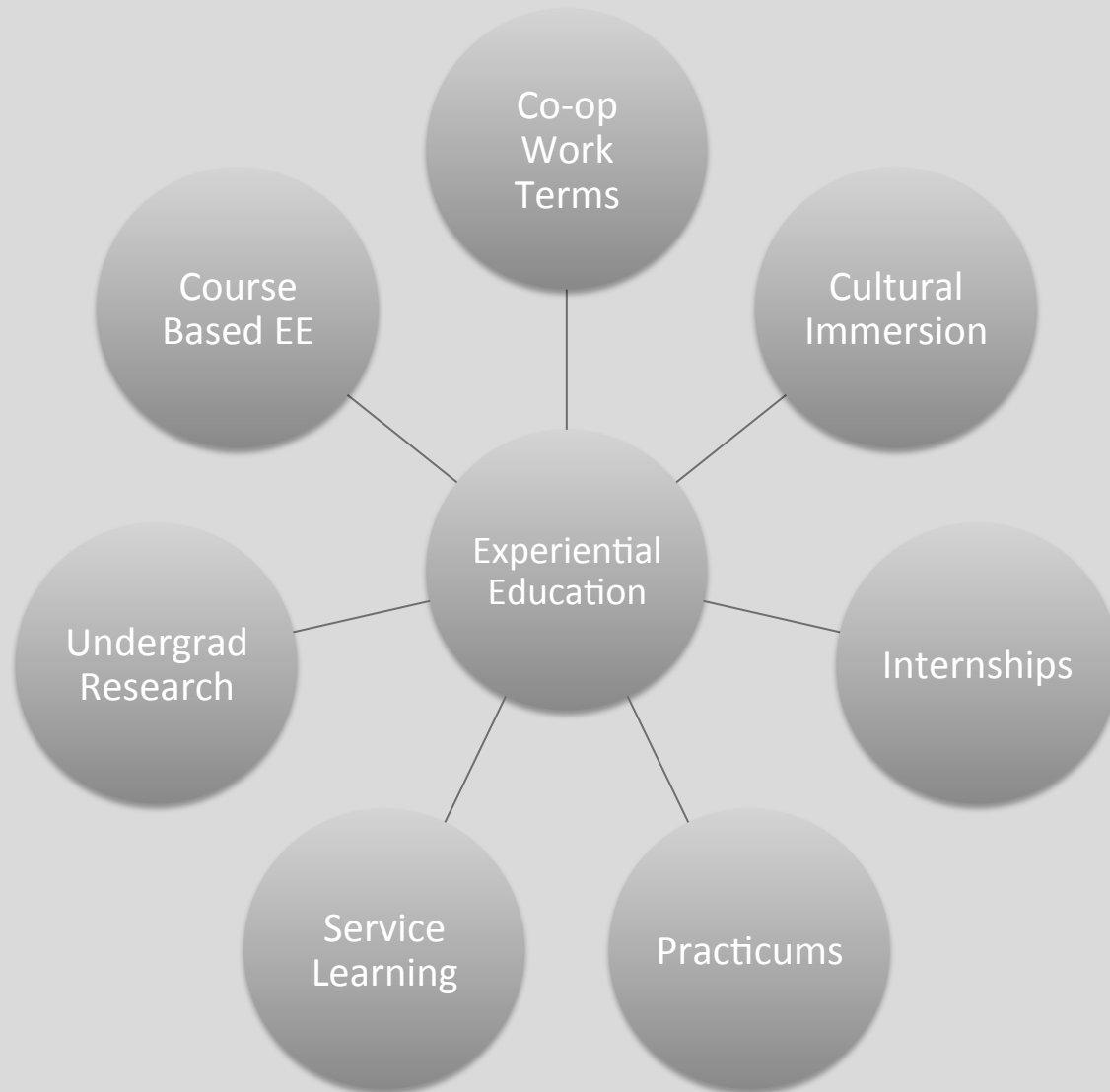
# WHAT IS EE?

**Experiential Education** is purposeful engagement with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase

- knowledge
- develop skills
- clarify values
- develop people's capacity to contribute to their communities

Source: <http://www.aee.org/what-is-ee>





## Design Differences

- Course/program or co-curricular
- Duration
- Full or part-time
- Paid/unpaid
- One time or multiple occurrences

Based on: <http://webs.purduecal.edu/exl/types-of-experiential-learning/>

# SOME STATISTICS

31

% of Ontario university graduates employed 2 years after graduation

53

% of university graduates, 18 months after graduation, who perceive a good fit between credential earned and current employment

78

?

% of employers not currently offering work-integrated learning, who plan to provide WIL in the future

93

% of Ontario university graduates who report that the field in which they are employed, 2 years after graduation, is somewhat or closely related to the discipline they studied at university

Sources: COU Annual Report, 2013-2014

Sattler, P. & Peters, J. (2012). *Work-Integrated Learning and Postsecondary Graduates: The Perspective of Ontario Employers*. Toronto: Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.

Peters, J., Sattler, P., & Kelland, J. (2014). *Work-Integrated Learning in Ontario's Postsecondary Sector: The Pathways of Recent College and University Graduates*. Toronto: Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.



# OUTCOMES

## Academic

- Integrate theory and practice
- Clarity about academic goals
- Academic motivation

## Personal

- Maturity
- Self-awareness
- Interpersonal skills
- Financial earnings
- Responsible citizenship
- Lifelong learning

## Professional

- Career clarity
- Workplace culture
- Workplace competencies
- Professional network
- Post-graduation employment opportunities



# OUTCOMES AND METRICS

Outcome	Possible Sources for Metrics
Retention	Tracked by institutions
Engagement	NSSE*
Articulation of Transferrable Skills	
Community Engagement	NGOS*
Employability	CUSC (graduating students) * NGOS* Linkage with salary data from income tax records (e.g. Ross Finnie's project at UOttawa)
* most relevant items detailed on WatCACE website resource	



# CASE STUDY

You and your consulting team, XYZ have been approached by the MTCU. They would like to better understand the connection between EE opportunities and students' ability to articulate the transferrable skills they have developed over their undergraduate degree. The MTCU would like XYZ to investigate existing measures or propose the development of new measures to collect this data.





# HOW CAN WE ATTRIBUTE OUTCOMES TO EE?

- Course level: grades, completion rates, end of course surveys between different sections of the same course
- Program level: identify possible comparison groups at the program level (e.g. co-op and non co-op)

Look for converging evidence about the outcomes of EE and not one source of data.



# HOW MUCH EE IS BEING DONE?

- Define types of EE (common language)
  - » Examples of WIL Taxonomies
- Develop methods for counting and tracking EE
  - » Really tricky!
  - » Often not even 'countable' at the course level (e.g. when one instructor teaches a course, it involves EE but not for another instructor)



# SUMMARY - 6 KEY METRICS

- Participation rates
- Retention
- Engagement
- Articulation of Transferrable Skills
- Community Engagement
- Longitudinal Employment Earnings



# REFERENCES/RESOURCES

<http://watcace.uwaterloo.ca>

## → Research areas and projects

### → Experiential Education

- links to useful resources/sites
- link to UW strategic plan indicators
- document with summary of items from NSSE, CUSC, NGOS



FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS?



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