

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING 101

10/17/18

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WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (EL)?

- Benefits and challenges of EL
- Share how EL fits in to the broader provincial and national context
- Definitions and forms of EL
- Quality attributes of EL
- Identify some resources to help you in your EL journey

THINK-PAIR-SHARE

What are the benefits of experiential learning?

What are the challenges associated with developing EL opportunities?

What are the benefits of experiential learning?

BENEFITS

- Student perspective
 - Opportunity to integrate theory and practice
 - Develop employability skills
 - Increased academic and career clarity
 - Build networks
- Faculty perspective
 - Increased student engagement
 - Rewarding experience
 - Build networks/partnerships; foster collaborations
 - Keeping current

BENEFITS CONTINUED

- Community/Industry partner
 - Build connections with campus;
 - Talent pipeline
 - Fresh perspectives/enthusiasm of students
 - Development of staff (student supervisors)

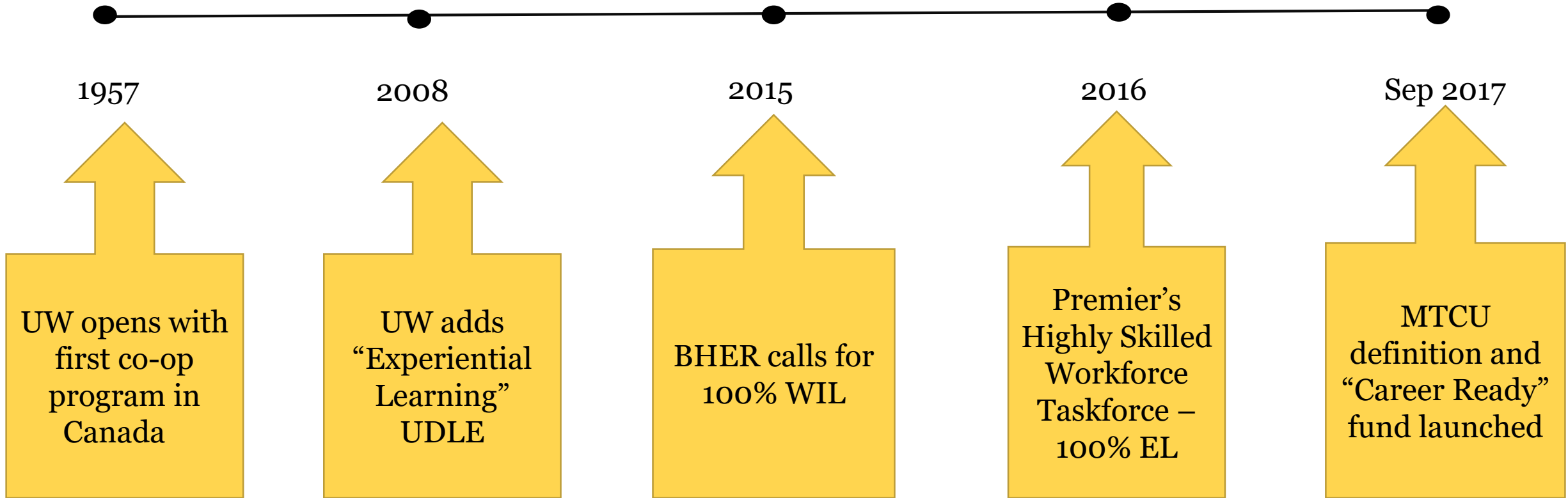
What are the challenges associated with developing experiential learning opportunities?

CHALLENGES

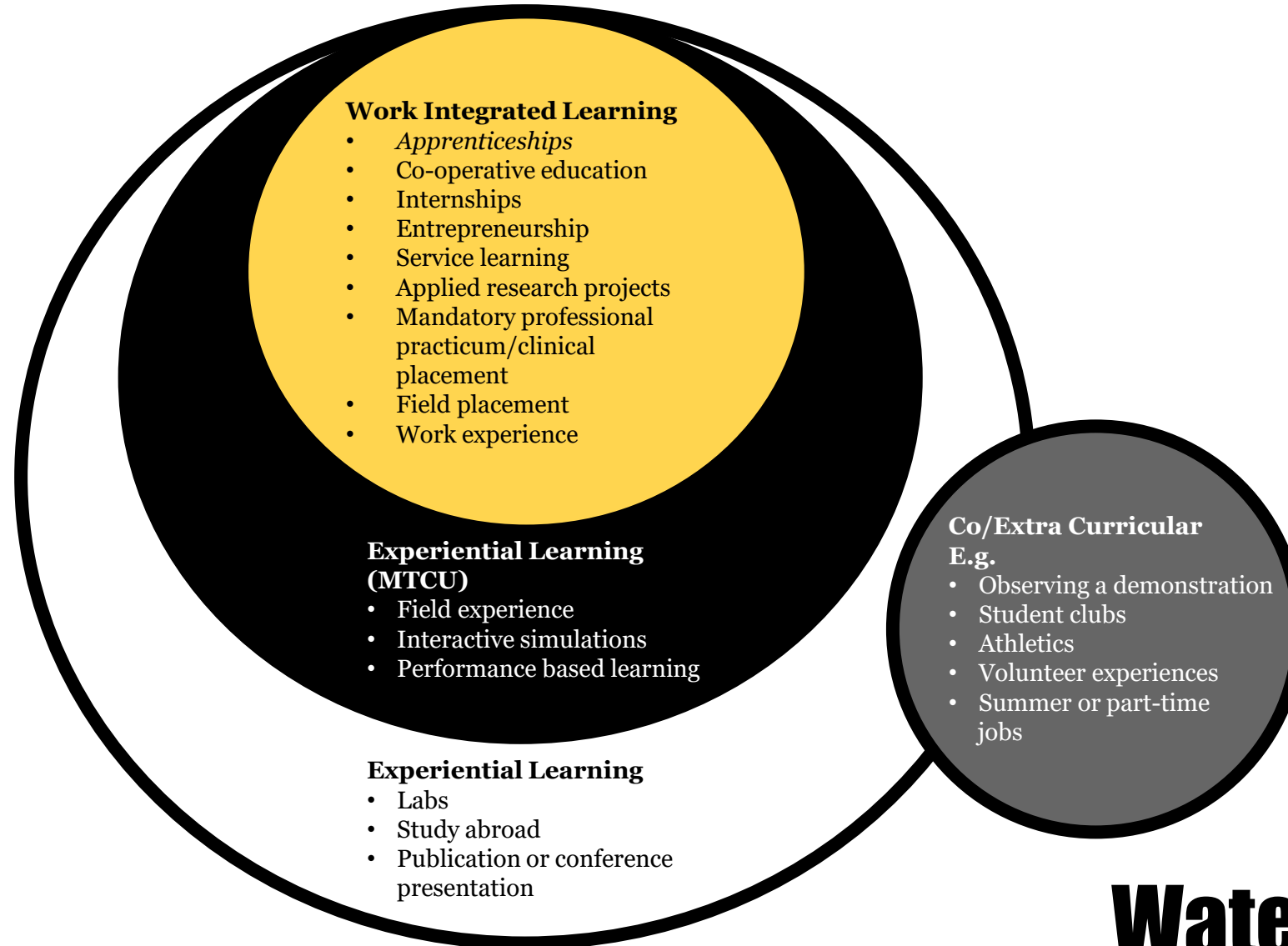
Additional workload

- Advanced planning and preparation required
- Clearly articulated outcomes
- Additional time and resources (instructors and students) to ensure quality learning experience– student preparation before, support during, and debrief after; variability and unpredictability of experience requires integration and reflection
- Logistics – sourcing and maintaining partner relationships, developing necessary agreements, travel to/from experience, fitting it in to the timeframe/curriculum

Timeline



The EL Spectrum



DEFINITIONS OF EL

EE

MTCU

WIL

CO-OP

Experiential Education (EE)

- “Experiential education is a philosophy that informs many methodologies in which educators purposefully engage with learners in **direct experience** and **focused reflection** in order to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and develop people’s capacity to contribute to their communities”
 - Association for Experiential Education
- University of Victoria has a [comprehensive list](#) of experiential education types along with associated definitions

DEFINITIONS OF EL

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Experiential Learning (MTCU)

- The student is in a workplace or simulated workplace.
- The student is exposed to authentic demands that improve their job-ready skills, interpersonal skills, and transition to the workforce.
- The experience is structured with purposeful and meaningful activities
- The student applies university or college program knowledge and/or essential employability skills
- The experience includes student self-assessment and evaluation of the student's performance and learning outcomes by the employer or university/college
- The experience counts towards course credit or credential completion OR is formally recognized by the college or university as meeting the five criteria above

DEFINITIONS OF EL

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Work-Integrated Learning (WIL)

- “Work-integrated learning is a model and process of curricular experiential education which formally and intentionally integrates a student’s academic studies within a workplace or practice setting. WIL experiences include an engaged partnership of at least: an academic institution, a host organization and a student. WIL can occur at the course or program level and includes the development of learning outcomes related to employability, personal agency and life-long learning”

-Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada

- CEWIL endorses nine forms of work-integrated learning

DEFINITIONS OF EL

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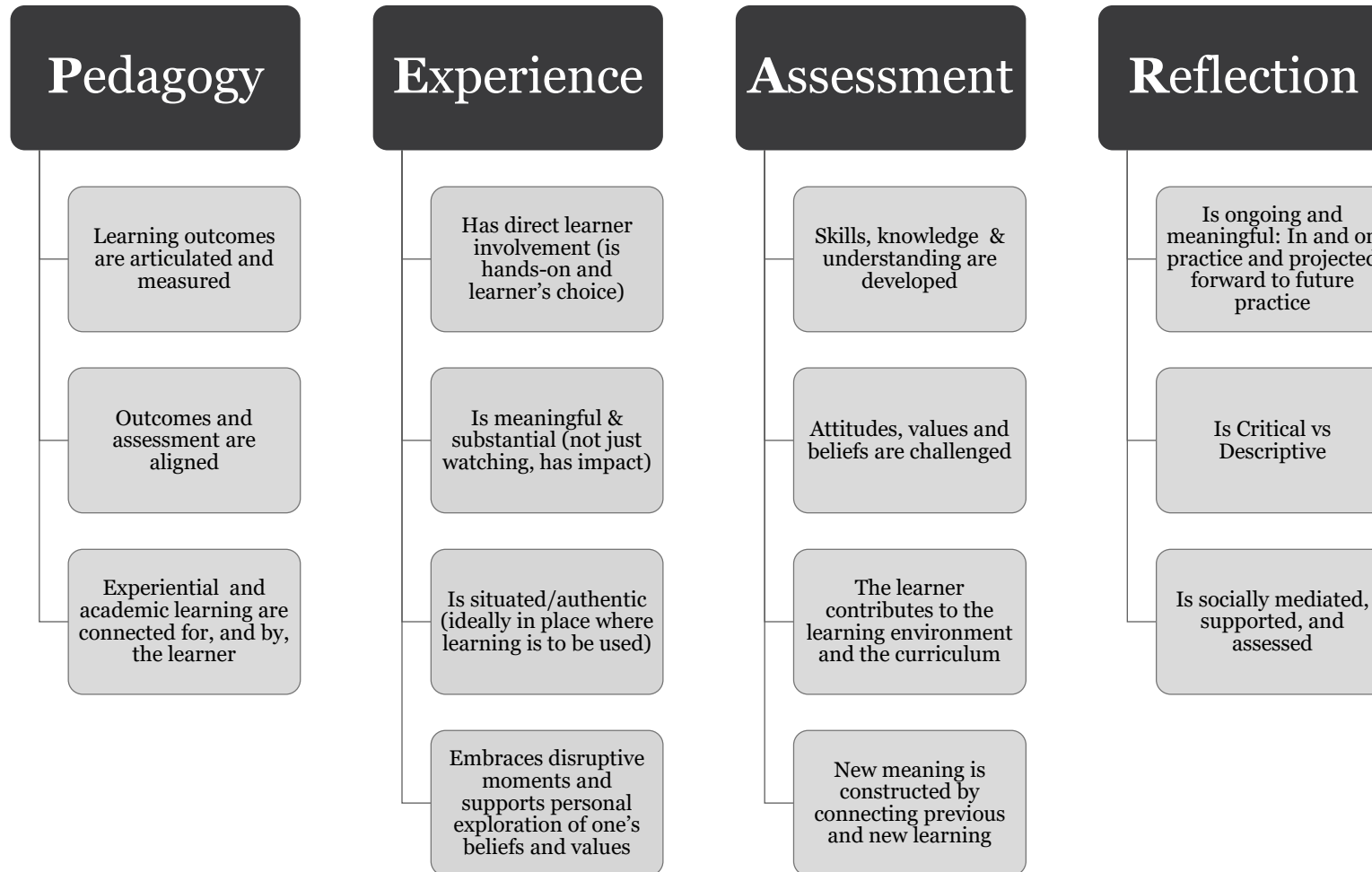
CO-OP

Co-operative Education (Co-op)

- Co-op is a specific form of work-integrated learning where students alternate between periods of academic study and periods of work
- In Canada, co-op is defined and accredited by the national association, Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada.
- Co-op programs require multiple, paid work terms, each of a minimum duration of twelve weeks and totaling at least 30% of the time spent in the academic program.
- Co-op is often cited as the most robust and rigorous form of work-integrated learning, leading to a unique set of outcomes for students, employers, institutions and society (NCCE outcomes).

KEY ASPECTS OF QUALITY EL

(McRae & Johnston, 2016):



OPPORTUNITIES

This year is all about building resources and capacity for faculty:

- Communities of practice
- EL Institute (February 25 & March 4)
- Development of resources: <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/support/integrative-learning/experiential-learning>
- Development of experiential learning inventory

THANK YOU!

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