



Experiential Education at York University

Putting theory to work through guided practical experiences
in the classroom, community and workplace.

BRIDGING THE “REAL WORLD” INTO CLASSROOMS

Organizations facing real problems are matched with courses on a basis of core course concepts that the instructor identifies; once a match is found, clients are invited to attend a class where they present a current challenge and ask for research support from students. Under the guidance of a professor, students provide insight and analysis to the client by collaborating throughout the year. In doing so, learning becomes very closely linked to the central objectives of the organization. This provides tangible benefits to both the organization and the student.

COURSE INFORMATION

The Advanced Public Policy Analysis seminar is designed to provide students with the knowledge and experience to prepare and to deliver a policy analysis. Students will acquire the fundamental and technical knowledge a policy analyst must possess. To reach these objectives, students will engage in theoretical reflections and proceed to in-depth analysis of a specific area of public policy, with a primary focus on Canada, at both federal and provincial levels. The course covers important elements of policy analysis, including structuring problems, collecting information, establishing criteria for analyzing policy options, assessing policy alternatives, choosing among policies, and policy evaluation.

HOW IT WORKS...

Should you wish to move forward, you will meet with a small group of students during the fall to discuss your current policy environment and the policy issue your organization is interested in. The students will then work with you throughout the year; one report will be presented to you in December, which will present a detailed analysis of the issue including its cause and scope. The second report, due in April, will be a complete policy analysis that will include recommendations regarding program and policy options, implementation strategies and evaluation guidelines. Approximately in March, students will brief the organization and will ask for feedback.

Experiential Education is a form of engaged learning that blends theory and coursework with practical, hands on experience.

Community Based Research (CBR) is practically relevant to the community; collaborative and action oriented. As part of their academic studies, LA&PS students are able to apply key course concepts to a wide variety of organizational issues and problem.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the experiential education program as the level of work is of consistently high quality and has helped me in my role at the Red Cross achieve key goals and objectives.”

Lynda Watson
Canadian Red Cross, York Region

STUDENTS CAN PARTNER WITH YOU TO:

- Conduct an in-depth analysis of the policy issue, including its cause and scope.
- Articulate policy research questions, compile relevant evidence and elaborate guidelines.
- Develop creative and realistic policy alternatives that can solve a social problem and a practical course of action to implement them.
- Suggest ways to evaluate a policy after its implementation.
- Communicate research findings clearly and effectively both in oral and written format.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Students are guided by a seasoned Professor with extensive experience in the field of Policy Analysis in Canada.
- You obtain a useful end product while students add realism – and excitement! – to their upper-level coursework through a hands-on collaborative project.
- Unique opportunity to work with a group of bright, energetic, enthusiastic and highly motivated senior undergraduate students on a worthwhile and meaningful research project for your organization.

PARTNER REQUIREMENTS

- A willingness to work with students on a critical policy analysis that is of concern to your organization, meshing with theoretical and key course parameters.
- Invitation to present your organization and the research questions/project you are seeking assistance with to the class, with time for Q&A with students.
- Opportunities for your student team and the Professor to touch base with you periodically.

RECENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Newcomer Women's Services Toronto
- Ministry of the Environment of Ontario
- Health Systems & Health Equity Research Group, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- National Ballet School of Canada
- Help Fight EBOLA Campaign
- York University—TD Community Engagement Centre

"This experiential education project provided me with an analytical framework which I was able to employ and address real issues that impact all Ontarians in a hands-on fashion."

Kevin Baksh, Public Policy and Administration Student

"Analyzing a real-life case with actual clients helped me better understand the policy and process of what goes into finding an adequate solution... this project definitely gave me hands-on experience."

Sylwi Baranowska, Public Policy and Administration Student

NEXT STEPS

To learn more about our Experiential Education program or getting involved:

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