

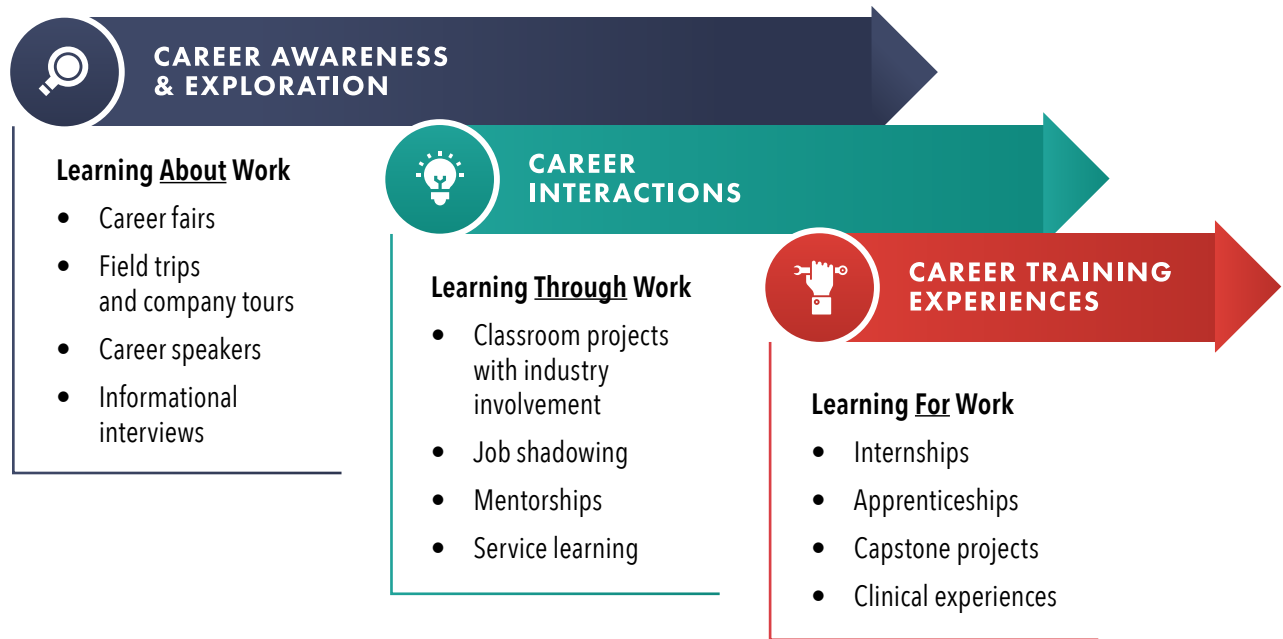
Work-Based Learning

Preparing students to succeed academically and thrive in their future careers

WHAT is work-based learning?





The term “work-based learning” means sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in real workplace settings, to the extent practicable, or simulated environments at an educational institution that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field, that are aligned to curriculum and instruction.¹

Work-based learning (WBL) exists on a continuum that reflects the progress of experiences from awareness-building to training. The graphic below presents some examples of experiences.



HOW does it help students?

Applied and work-based learning can provide students a deeper, more engaging and relevant learning experience in a number of ways:

-  **Connects academic learning with real-world experiences, making learning relevant**
-  **Enhances student motivation, retention, and academic success**
-  **Supports students in defining career goals**
-  **Gives students practical experience and helps them develop in-demand technical skills, 21st century skills, and career competencies**

“In the 21st century, the majority of entry-level jobs require a rich mix of formal postsecondary education along with high-quality work experience.”²

(Carnevale & Smith, 2018)

WHY is work-based learning important?

WBL fosters deeper engagement

Enables students to:

- learn by doing
- learn skills and concepts in context
- see direct links between what they learn in the classroom and problems in applied settings³

WBL offers students better outcomes

- persistence
- graduation rates
- employment rates
- better outcomes for underserved populations⁴

What are faculty saying about WBL?



"WBL events are extremely beneficial to students' educational experiences because they incorporate real-life workforce professionals and deliverables into the classroom. This provides them with hands-on experience with the principles they are learning, connecting the theoretical and practical components of the course."



"By aligning industry experiences with classroom curriculum, it is not that difficult to create powerful and important connections with the world of work for our students."



"I think it would be good to build different WBL activities in different courses – intro, intermediate, and advanced courses. I love that there are so many options to choose from to help students find their 'why' and gain meaningful work experiences."

How do I learn more about WBL?

Partner with your campus Career Center and Work-Based Learning Coordinator!

Help students explore career options and teach them the professional skills needed to be successful in today's labor market. Contact your campus WBL Coordinator or Career Center for support in integrating WBL activities into your classes to connect your students' academic learning with real-world experiences.



- 1 Perkins V Sec. 3. [20 U.S.C. 2302] (55)
- 2 Carnevale, A.P. & Smith, N. (2018). *Balancing work and learning: Implications for low-income students*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/learnandearn/>
- 3 California Department of Education. (2010). *Multiple pathways for student success: Envisioning the new California high school*. <https://www.wested.org/resources/multiple-pathways-to-student-success/>; Holzer, H. & Lerman, R. I. (2014). *Work-based learning to expand jobs and occupational qualifications for youth*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- 4 Rodriguez, J., Fox, H., & McCambly, H. (2016). *Work-based learning as a pathway to postsecondary and career success*. Office of Community College Research and Leadership. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.