HOW DO STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM CEL?

With CEL, students connect course content with real-world experiences; contribute to community; and build their understanding, their CV and their network.

“I have never felt more confident that I am in the right program and am pursuing a worthwhile passion than I do after this community-engaged learning experience. The people I met and worked with have been incredibly supportive and welcoming.”

Sociology student

“The Sustainability Field School has given me a broader example of how the skills and theories I have learned can be directly applied to the outside world.”

Geography field school student

SOSC collaborates with community

SOSC contributes to community through research, learning and service. SOSC strives for reciprocal relationships based on trust and is very grateful to organizations, First Nations, businesses, governments and other institutions for their contributions to student learning.

CONNECT WITH US

For more information visit us at uvic.ca/sosc-cel-students or contact the SOSC Community-Engaged Learning Coordinator, Rhianna Nagel, at 250-472-5667 or sosccel@uvic.ca

We acknowledge with respect the Kwakwaka’wakw peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. SOSC shares the responsibility and work of indigenization and decolonization and works to infuse Indigenous knowledges, ways of knowing and content, and to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous voices, scholars, students, and communities across all departments in our Faculty.

Cover photo: Anthropology students learn about Indigenous cartographies and ethnographic mapping through a collaboration to protect ancestral sites with Huuqumdirnun elders and Parks Canada.
Dynamic, hands-on education

The Faculty of Social Sciences is committed to offering meaningful community-engaged learning (CEL) experiences that enrich student learning and personal and professional development. There are over 100 opportunities for CEL in Social Sciences at UVic. Many Social Sciences students combine hands-on experiences in the community with their classroom learning to deepen their understanding of course material and engage in more impactful action in the community.

What is community-engaged learning?

CEL is a partnership between community and faculty to co-deliver curriculum in a way that actively engages students with course concepts and has benefit to community members. It is experiential, community-engaged, reciprocal, and involves real-life application of course content. There are many forms of CEL including course-based community service learning, course-based community projects, co-operative education placements, practica, field placements, field schools, internships, research projects, and self-directed community-engaged studies.

Learning with community

Political Science students take what they learn about electoral forum to the community in student-led workshops that strengthen public participation in the debate on electoral forum.

Supporting community service delivery

Applied Sociology students contribute their knowledge, energy and skills to community through placements with local service organizations. Many Applied Sociology students have supported program evaluation work that improves the delivery and impact of community services.

Learning in community

SoSc 300 (Working in the Community) combines classroom study of community organizations, civic engagement, and related philosophical and ethical issues with a practicum consisting of voluntary work with a community organization.

Learning through action

The Redfish School of Change is an Environmental Studies program designed for people who want to lead the way in creating ecological sustainability and social equity in their communities. Each student implements a Community Action Project (CAP) that they develop during the course of the unique field experience.

Responding to community

Geography students engage with the community in the Urban Mobility course to find out more about the challenges and creative solutions for urban transportation. They share their results and recommendations with the City of Victoria and other community groups.

Enhancing community learning

Anthropology of Sound students create permanent listening stations which house soundscapes that accompany objects on exhibit at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

Psychology students work with the Centre for Autism Research Technology and Education to enhance the social and emotional skills of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).