

# WORK-BASED LEARNING

Work-based learning is the practice and application of classroom knowledge in a real-world setting or simulated environment under the supervision of an experienced professional. It can be offered within credit or noncredit coursework. Courses may also incorporate industry-based projects and simulations.

## CREDIT OPTIONS



### APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

- Programs are registered by the state
- Students must apply and be accepted
- These opportunities are managed by the organizations offering them
- Students are paid; employers get tax breaks
- *Examples: Carpenters, Heavy Equipment Operating Engineers, IBEW, Iron Workers, Plumbers, Sheet Metal Workers, Stationary Operating Engineers, PA Early Education*



### CLINICAL

- Health care-related
- Provides preemployment experience in the field
- Typically a defined number of days/hours/weeks
- Normally required by the program
- Requirements outlined by the department and clinical site



### PRACTICUM

- Provides preemployment experience in the field
- May be paid or unpaid (must be unpaid for ECD)
- Course description must list the minimum number of hours required
- Departments identify and manage practicum sites
- *Examples: Court Reporting, Criminal Justice, Dietetics, Early Education, ASL-English Interpreting, Social Work*



### COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

- Hands-on experience, applied knowledge
- Usually full-time, paid positions
- Offered with variable credit based on hours
- May or may not be required for a given program
- Specific criteria apply
- Coordinated by the discipline departments or Workforce and Job Readiness



### CAPSTONE

- The culminating course in a program
- A work-based learning component may be included
- May offer students the opportunity to analyze real-world problems facing companies and to present their solutions at the end of the semester
- Part of program requirements



### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- Application of coursework to projects by students
- Topics/problems identified by organizational partners in fields such as science, engineering, health care, logistics, IS/data, environmental
- Can be incorporated into other courses
- May be a capstone course

## NONCREDIT OPTIONS



### INTERNSHIP

- Supervised, structured learning in a professional setting, paid or unpaid
- Typically requires a specific number of hours within a defined time frame
- Routine feedback from an experienced supervisor
- Microinternship: a short-term (weeks-long) experience related to a specific job or task
- Credit may be awarded within Allied Health programs



### EXTERNSHIP

- Short-term shadowing experience
- Helps students make connections with professionals
- Paid or unpaid
- Credit may be awarded within Allied Health programs