

Experiential Learning Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference 2025

Overview

Experiential Learning is “learning by doing, being, connecting and reflecting.” This broad umbrella of learning activities includes experiential learning that occurs in classrooms, studios, laboratories and field sites, learning experiences on the land, curricular and co-curricular experiences on campus, and experiential learning activities that occur in a workplace or practice setting. These intentionally designed activities typically focus on innovation and problem solving, research and research skills, developing specific knowledge, skills and attributes, life design and career development, or creative scholarship and offer relevant, authentic learning experiences.¹ Learning in this way contributes to student engagement, helps students discover their passions, and provides career clarity.

ELAC Purpose

The Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) was created in 2020 to guide UCalgary’s Experiential Learning Plan (2020-25) and our commitment to experiential learning around three priorities: *1) Expand capacity and reduce barriers; 2) Increase student opportunities; and 3) Track and ensure high quality EL*. This institutional committee is accountable to the Deputy Provost and is designed to connect and amplify Experiential Learning programs across the university in alignment with Ahead of Tomorrow and the Academic Innovation Plan. ELAC brings together leaders, practitioners and administrators involved in EL from academic and non-academic units to guide the growth of quality experiential learning at UCalgary.

ELAC Activities

The Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) convenes key leaders, practitioners and administrators to guide experiential learning at UCalgary. The committee:

- Informs institutional planning related to experiential learning
- Informs and contributes to coordination of EL initiatives across UCalgary (where needed),
- Supports UCalgary’s commitment to reconciliation by affirming Indigenous ways of knowing, being, doing and connecting in our work, engaging Indigenous perspectives and addressing colonial practices and policies in EL.
- Champions equitable, inclusive and accessible experiential learning
- Informs institutional reporting and storytelling on EL, EL initiatives, practices and policies

ELAC Membership

ELAC is co-chaired by the Vice-Provost (Teaching & Learning) and the Director of Experiential & Work-Integrated Learning. Membership of ELAC is comprised of campus leaders and champions of Experiential Learning. Membership is typically a two-year term, with the opportunity for renewal.

- 1 representative from each Faculty or similar unit with responsibilities for EL activities, including a representative from Continuing Education and the School of Public Policy
- 1 representative from the Office of Indigenous Engagement
- 1 representative from the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

¹. Stowe, L., Flanagan, K., Martineau, C., Kaipainen, E., & Kenny, N. (2024). Revisioning the UCalgary Experiential Learning Framework. University of Calgary, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning. <https://teaching-learning.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/24-UCalgaryELFramework-FINAL.pdf>

- 1 representative from each of the following groups:
 - Advancement, Office of Partnerships
 - Global Learning
 - Vice-President Research Office
 - Student Experience
 - Office of the Registrar
 - Program Innovation Hub
 - Library and Cultural Resources
 - Office of Sustainability
 - Legal Services
 - Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking
- One undergraduate student representative designated by the Students' Union
- One graduate student representative designated by the Graduate Students' Association

Frequency of Meetings

ELAC meets twice during the Fall and Winter semesters, and once during the Spring/Summer term. Subcommittees of the ELAC may meet more frequently.

ELAC Subcommittees

As the work of the ELAC evolves, the Committee will appoint subcommittees for specific thematic areas or projects. Subcommittees are chaired by members of the Advisory Committee.

Reporting

The Committee reports to the Deputy Provost. Committee chairs will be responsible for providing committee updates throughout the year for the Deputy Provost.