

Community Focused Learning

Community focused learning (CFL)* is a form of course-based experiential learning where student projects aim to support the work of a community organization or group, but where no direct or regular engagement with the community partner is necessary.



Students learn the concepts, history, and principles of community engagement as a steppingstone to deeper and more transformative engagement opportunities.



CFL is suitable for all class sizes and offers a way to introduce early-stage learners to community-university engagement.



CFL provides high impact engagement in a low-stakes setting that enriches the learning experience for students, educators, and community partners.

Benefits of Community Focused Learning



For instructors, CFL is a lower risk to community-university relationships and provides opportunities to develop manageable and creative pedagogy that fosters deeper links between theory and practice.



For students, CFL has been shown to enrich experiential learning by enhancing:

- Cognitive skills
- Retention of course material
- Understanding of community priorities, issues and systems
- Contributions to society
- Awareness, interest and experience of civic engagement
- Social responsibility



For partners, CFL provides opportunities to engage learners and grow beneficial community relationships in a lower-touch manner.

*The term CFL was developed by Dr. Mavis Morton at the University of Guelph.

This infographic was created by the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (CESI) to support the final report of the Provost's Working Group on Experiential Learning. For more information visit the [Provost's Task Force on Pedagogical Innovation website](#).