



Students are Valuable Too: Collaboration with Western's Community

Engaged Learning Program

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Introduction

Thames Valley Family Health Team (TVFHT) has partnered with Western University's Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Program. Community Engaged Learning at Western University, operated out of The Student Success Centre, partners with local and international organizations to mobilize knowledge and exchange resources in order to address critical societal issues. By engaging students, staff, and faculty in meaningful experiential learning opportunities, CEL helps meet community defined needs while promoting students' sense of civic engagement and social responsibility. The curricular CEL program embeds community projects right into the course curriculum with the intention that community projects will help bring course learning objectives to life while making a meaningful contribution to a community organization. Two courses that we have collaborated with in the past include: *Global Health Promotions* and *Gerontology in Practice* within the School of Health Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Benefits of the Partnership

- Access to a network of peer-review journal articles through multiple search engines
- Time to conduct thorough literature reviews
- Creative minds
- Ability to understand and utilize new technology
- Passion and energy around the topic of interest
- Eagerness to learn

Testimonials from Staff

"A win-win situation. Students had an opportunity to learn about primary care and considerations in targeting the FHT population identified and in turn students brought new perspectives and fresh ideas to the table."

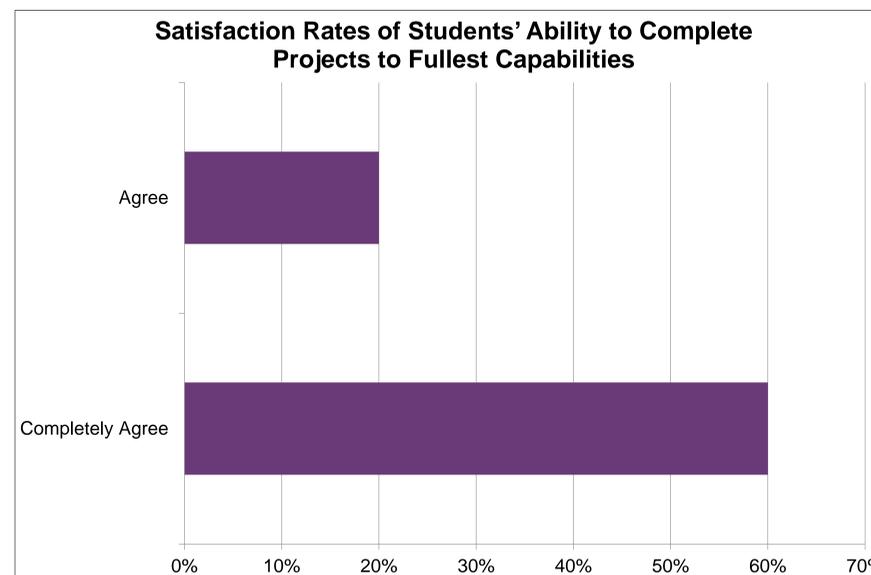
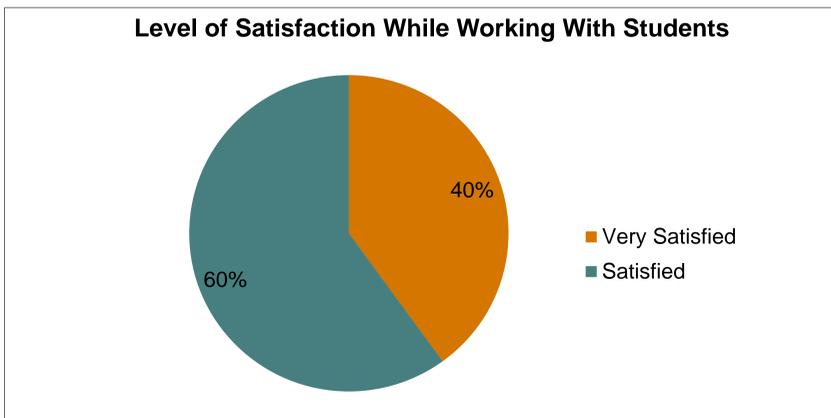
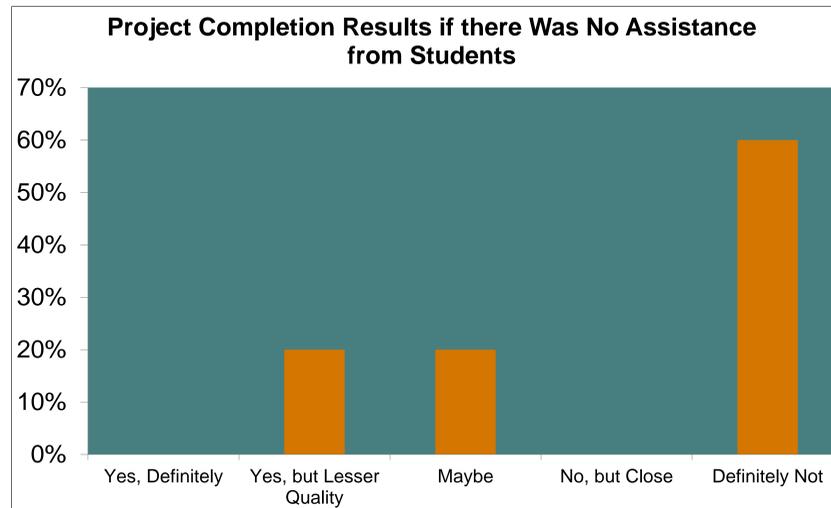
"I thoroughly enjoyed working with the UWO students and am grateful for their input. It enabled me to complete my work project and thus implement a new program at our site. I could not have done this without their assistance!"

"They come with an energy that practitioners may have lost over time. I revitalizes me!"

"Students were professional in their manner and reached deadlines as proposed with the project."

"It was such a pleasure working with students. This experience helped keep me engaged in challenging work. I especially value the students' technology knowledge."

Results



Example of Student Projects

Gerontology in Practice

- Creation of the Healthy Aging Program
 - Supporting the creation of a 6-week program geared for early seniors to prepare them for aging in a healthy manner.

Global Health Promotions

- Creation of a Mindfulness-Based Program
 - Supported the creation of a 4-week mindfulness-based program through literature reviews.
- Revamping the COPD Education Program
 - Updating the existing framework with up-to-date research and evaluations.
- Creating a Mental Health Triage for Social Work
 - A tool to triage patients referred to Social Work by directing them straight to mental health programs, urgent appointments, or as patients who required assistance but not immediately
- Developing nutrition based tools for pre-teens
 - Creation of short videos to promote the benefits of healthy eating, physical activity, stress management, and sleep.
- Collaboration project between FHT Pharmacists and Community Pharmacists
- Developing promotional materials for the FHT
 - Creation of video to utilize in waiting rooms to promote the services the FHT has to offer patients.
- Creation of a community footcare resource package
 - Developed a package of community partners that provide footcare services, either at cost or free for patients.

