The Sandbox Initiative in The Faculty of Arts & Science

The Office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support (ELOS) invites you to join The Sandbox! Engage your students in a course project with a partner organization that addresses real world challenges.



The Concept

You will work collaboratively with ELOS and a partner organization to develop a challenge that meets your course goals. Multiple courses may be connected to this project, delivering proposed solutions to different aspects of the same problem.

Sandbox projects will engage students in multidisciplinary learning while widening your network of faculty, community and industry partners.

Project Example

Shore&Shelter based in Victoria, BC, sells high quality outerwear and outdoor gear, primarily online. They are committed to reducing their carbon footprint but are struggling with declining post-pandemic sales. This multi-faceted problem can be addressed by enlisting the collective output of a School of Environment research course, a Statistical Science course and a Sociology course that examines perspectives on production and household consumption trends. Each course is responsible for a distinct part of a deliverable for Shore&Shelter which also constitutes academic project work. Results are delivered to the partner and showcased at a wrap event.





The Benefits to You

- Participate in innovative course delivery that enhances student learning
- Develop relationships with community and industry professionals whose project proposals align with your course goals
- Apply expertise in your research area or topic of study to address contemporary challenges
- Receive full pedagogical and partnership supports from project inception to delivery and evaluation

The Sandbox outcomes will be unique to each course and the specific challenges partners seek to address.

Your Commitment

- Identify an existing course with a project component
- Connect with ELOS 2-4 months prior to course start for project scoping and fine-tuning
- Participate in project check-ins that include periodic consultation with ELOS staff and partner organization
- Engage in project wrap-up and evaluation with the possibility of ongoing partner engagement for the course

Partner Commitments

- Proposes project idea based on current priorities
- Introduces project challenge to students
- Participates in check-ins throughout course
- Attends project wrap-up, provides feedback and evaluates project outcomes

For more information, please contact:

Christine Ovcaric, M.A.Ed. Experiential Learning Coordinator, Sandbox Initiative christine.ovcaric@utoronto.ca