

Work Experience & SSA Course Information

Work Experience integrates classroom theory with practical experience in the community and workplace in an effort for students to gain practical skills and to explore possible career options. There are hundreds of various work experience opportunities which include banks, hotels, Cypress Mountain (free ski pass), auto repair shops, schools, investment firms, Vancouver Aquarium, dentists, medical research, computer technicians, SPCA, lawyers, retail stores, restaurants, engineering firms, and architectural firms. Whatever your career interest is we will work to find a suitable placement.

Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to:

- Explore personal interests and abilities.
- Practice knowledge and skills in a work environment.
- Develop connections between goals, school studies, and possible career fields.
- Observe and participate with adults working in the field of career interest.

When a student is enrolled in WEX 12A, a 4 credit course, it includes:

- The Work Experience component out-of-school: 100 hours of volunteer work or job shadowing in the community in an area of interest to you, the student. 30 of those hours must be volunteer. (4 credits)
- You will meet with your teacher on a regular, flexible basis and complete a series of classroom assignments on topics such as: workplace safety, employability skills, résumé writing, and interview skills. During this time, you will also work with the teacher, to plan the work placement and make telephone calls with the teacher to set up your placement.

Work Experience encourages students to:

- Find answers to career questions.
- Explore career options through work experience placements.
- Make connections between school and work.
- Reflect on experiences and set new goals.

Upon completion of Work Experience, a student will receive:

- Skills and knowledge necessary for entry level employment in the specialty field.
- Background and course work necessary for entry into related post-secondary programs.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP (SSA, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B – 4 credits each)

This series of courses is a career program that allows students the opportunity to begin an apprenticeship while still in high school, and to earn wages and high school credits, for doing so. One hundred and twenty hours of paid work equals 4 credits to a maximum of 480 hours for a total of 16 credits. Students secure a paid job with a certified journeyman in that trade, and become registered with the Industry Training Authority.

- This is a special program for a student who wishes to graduate while working part-time and developing a career through apprenticeship.
- The student is eligible for a \$1000 scholarship upon graduation if he/she maintains a C+ overall average in Grades 11 and 12.
- Within 3 to 5 years, the student will be a trained journeyman in his/her chosen field making excellent wages.
- Examples of designated trade categories include: Aerospace, Construction, Electronics, Automotive, Graphic Arts, Horticulture, Forestry, Motion Picture & Theatre, and Hospitality.
- For more information or to enroll, students are encouraged to visit the Career Resource Centre/WEX Teacher. Students interested in the Apprenticeship Programme are responsible for obtaining their own placement.