

Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Work-based learning (WBL) is comprised of experiences related to students’ career interests, based on instructional preparation, and undertaken in partnership with local businesses or organizations. WBL enables students to apply classroom instruction in a real-world work environment. There are 11 WBL methods of instruction practiced in Virginia.

WBL promotes the following:

- **Career Awareness**—exposes students to careers and increases awareness of interests and talents (e.g., guest speakers, career fairs, informational interviews)
- **Career Exploration**—encourages students to develop career interests and to make informed decisions on secondary and postsecondary education and training
- **Career Preparation**—deepens student knowledge with experiences that develop skills for success toward future employment and postsecondary education and training

WBL Experience

| | | Training agreement | Training plan | Suggested Grade levels | Related CTE | Minimum duration | Paid option | Standard unit of credit |
|--|--|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Job Shadowing | Job shadowing places students in workplaces to interact with and observe employees. This helps students learn more about careers and workplaces as well as the education and training required for a career. Students may participate in several job-shadowing opportunities to compare careers of interest. | ✓ | | 6-12 | ✓ | Varies by type | | |
| Service Learning | Service learning goes beyond community service. Students learn and apply academic, social, and personal skills to improve the community and develop a lifelong ethic of service. | ✓ | | 6-12 | ✓ | Varies by type | | |
| Mentorship | Students are paired with professionals with first-hand experience and proven track records. Mentors are encouraged to provide hands-on experience, challenging opportunities, and a broad view of their industry. | ✓ | | 6-12 | ✓ | Course duration | | |
| Externship | Externs are paired with professionals to explore careers and the workplace and to learn about the education and training required to succeed. An extended job-shadowing experience, the externship does not include work delegated to students. | ✓ | | 6-12 | ✓ | 40 hours | | |
| School-Based Enterprise | This experience is an ongoing, student-managed, entrepreneurial operation within the school setting. School-based enterprises replicate the workplace to provide career insights and relevant experiences for students. | ✓ | | 6-12 | ✓ | Course duration | | |
| Internship | Internships place students in workplaces to develop career-related knowledge and skills. Students participating in internships are guided by a training plan that defines academic and workplace skills to be mastered. | ✓ | ✓ | 11-12 | ✓ | 280 hours | ✓ | ✓ |
| Entrepreneurship | Student entrepreneurs plan, implement, operate, and assume financial risks in businesses that produce goods or deliver services. In an entrepreneurship, students develop the skills necessary to become established in their own business or to gain employment. | ✓ | | 11-12 | ✓ | Course duration | | |
| Clinical Experience | This experience provides health and medical science students clinical practice essential to apply classroom learning. Students are placed in a variety of healthcare settings and observe patients at different stages to better understand the scope of the healthcare profession. | ✓ | | 11-12 | ✓ | Varies by type | | |
| Cooperative Education | This experience connects a rigorous and relevant curriculum with paid workplace experience. Students participating in cooperative education are guided by a training plan that defines academic and workplace skills to be mastered. | ✓ | ✓ | 11-12 | ✓ | 280 hours | ✓ | ✓ |
| Youth Registered Apprenticeship | Integrating related technical instruction (RTI) and on-the-job (OTJ) training, youth registered apprenticeships help students gain employability and occupational skills. Instructors include qualified teachers and journeyworker experts. | ✓ | | 11-12 | ✓ | None | ✓ | |
| Registered Apprenticeship | With registered apprenticeships, employers can develop high-quality career pathways to prepare their future workforce. Individuals obtain paid OTJ training and work experience, RTI, mentorship, and a portable, nationally-recognized credential. | ✓ | | 11-12 | ✓ | 144 hrs. RTI/2,000 hrs. OJT | ✓ | |