

## **Definition of Terms for Co-Operative and Experiential Learning** (rev. 11-28-06)

**Agency Experience:** (Same as Field Work??)

**Apprenticeships:** Combined work and education experience with an employer. The employer and employee enter into a contract. The contracted –employer provides experience and pays for the student to attend school for coursework related to the occupation.

**Clinicals:** Course(s) which provide a supervised clinical experience in an approved medical setting. (94-95 Definition of Terms)

**Co-op:** A course that allows a student to work in a job related to the student’s program of study. (MCC College Catalog)

### **Experiential Learning**

“MCC recognizes *Experiential Learning* as a structured educational strategy combining classroom learning and productive career-related experiences.” (extracted from the 1994-95 Experiential Learning Committee Mission Statement).

Learning through experience, either in a real situation, such as a workplace, or in a role play or simulated environment; learning by doing; involves the student in his/her learning to a much greater degree than in typical traditional learning environments; process of actively engaging students in an authentic experience that will have benefits and consequences; students make discoveries and experiment with knowledge themselves instead of hearing or reading about the experiences of others.; develop new skills, new attitudes, and new theories or ways of thinking. (Thompson Curriculum Definitions 10/06)

**Externship:** May or may not be compensated, not an employee of the company, purely educational but do not receive college credit ([www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)) short time span i.e. a week. Most often refers to a nonresident doctor or medical student. Applying what has already been learned

**Field Work:** Course(s) which provide the student with the opportunity to demonstrate competency in the classroom. Practical work experience in an agency or organization. Field experiences intended to provide students with real world work experiences and contact with working professionals. Applies academic concepts and acquired skills to a work situation under supervision of agency representative. Taken during last semester of program. (94-95 Definition of Terms)

**Internship:** May or may not be compensated, students work for an employer for a specified period of time to learn about a particular industry, occupation or skill set.

**Job Shadowing:** A student follows an employee at a company location to learn about a particular occupation or industry. Used most often to gain information about an occupation.

**Mentoring:** An employee who possesses the skills and knowledge to be mastered by a student, and who instructs the student, critiques the performance of the student, challenges the student to perform well, and works in consultation with the student's teachers, youth organization and or the employer of the student.

**Practicum:** A course of study designed especially for the preparation of teachers and clinicians that involves the supervised practical application of previously studied theory

**Project-Based Co-op:** Learning experience that provides students the opportunity to work on specific, short-term projects from an employer in conjunction with their academic program, i.e. developing a brochure for an employer in conjunction with a Graphic Design class.

**Service Learning:** A method of teaching, learning and reflecting that combines academic classroom curriculum with meaningful community service. Learn and develop through active participation. (Thompson Curriculum Definitions 10/06)

**Work Study:** A federal or state-funded program that allows students to work on campus to gain valuable work experience and earn money for expenses, preferably in program of study. Schedule is flexible around school schedule and number of hours/week dependent on Work Study Award which is processed through Financial Aid.