

The University of Washington-Bothell

Natalia Dyba, Director of Global Initiatives

At the University of Washington Bothell, a comprehensive public institution of 5,400 students in the Seattle area, COIL plays an important role as an alternative to study abroad: a different way to have a highly-engaging global learning experience. The student body is highly diverse in terms of socio-economic status, familiarity with college, race and ethnicity, age, and veteran status. Many students are place-bound, so while interest in study abroad is growing, participation remains below 10%. The institution actively encourages embedding high-impact practices (as defined by AAC&U) into the curriculum as a strategy to increase retention and graduation rates, and COIL courses typically embed several high-impact practices.

Start of the project in 2013

Since 2013, UW Bothell has conducted a series of professional development workshops for faculty, including the UW COIL Fellows program, and hosted two Global Engagement through Technology symposia and a COIL Training Workshop which attracted attendees from across the western U.S. and abroad. A seed grant from the UW Jackson School of International Studies and resources from SUNY's COIL Center were instrumental in launching the program and building support across the tri-campus UW system.

Implementation of COIL

Interested UW instructors apply for the COIL Fellows program by submitting proposals outlining their ideas for the implementation of COIL into a new or existing course. Once selected, Fellows are required to participate in four community of practice meetings to deepen learning and facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources and strategies. Some meetings and assignments intentionally take place online to address faculty concerns about technology. Deliverables of the program include a complete syllabus, a partnership worksheet, and a group presentation to share the experience with others. Stipends have ranged from \$1200 to \$2,000 each, depending on the availability of resources.

Most of our faculty who express interest in COIL bring specific international partners that they want to work with. We are lucky to have a very globally-connected faculty body, so there has not been much demand for us to make partnership matches (about one or two every year). Because of that, for the most part, we are working with a different institution for each COIL course. Throughout the program, participants are asked to work out certain issues with their international partner, such as developing assignments, aligning class schedules, and anticipating power imbalances between the two groups, but that happens individually, and is not integrated into the learning community's structure.

Outcomes and Objectives

Since 2014, 16 COIL courses have been implemented at UW Bothell, engaging nearly 400 students. Fifteen more courses are under development for future years. Notable is the relatively high percentage of courses – 75% – targeting first-year and pre-major students. COIL is a natural fit for the already interdisciplinary Discovery Core general education curriculum. We are eager to study the effect of a high-impact international experience on these students' undergraduate experience. There are also a

growing number of COIL courses that combine international collaboration with local community engagement, comparing how global issues are addressed by local stakeholders in distinct parts of the world.

Organization

As a young campus with a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, and a mission of increasing access to higher education, COIL is well aligned with institutional priorities at UW Bothell and has been embraced readily by many stakeholders across campus, including senior leadership. During the past three years, in addition to the Director of Global Initiatives, who spends about 15% of her time on COIL, a COIL Faculty Coordinator has supported professional development with about 20% of his time during active terms. As the program grows, we hope to integrate COIL more closely with teaching and learning programming and our online learning initiative.

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