

# Work Experience (WEX 12A and WEX 12B)

## What is Work Experience (WEX)?

WEX 12A and 12B are school-sponsored work experience courses that provide students the opportunity to engage in career exploration through community-based work and volunteer opportunities. Students participate in a variety of work-based activities related to an occupation or career focus area of interest. Each course comprises 90 hours minimum of work/volunteer experience and 10-30 hours in-class learning activities.

## Rationale for Work Experience:

Work experience is intended to help prepare students for the transition from secondary school to the world of work or further education and training. The community becomes the classroom where students gain knowledge and experience about the workplace and are provided with a frame of reference to review or revise their career goals. Work experience provides students with an opportunity to apply classroom learning in a context outside of school and to bring back to the classroom new perspectives to further develop their personal career transition plans.

## Goals of each Work Experience course include to:

- observe and practice employability skills required in the workplace as well as technical and applied skills related to specific occupations.
- connect classroom learning to the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed in the workplace.
- develop job-readiness skills for specific occupations and/or career areas.
- learn about employment expectations, regulations and practices.

## Prior to Starting a Work Placement for WEX 12A and 12B:

- students must be able to demonstrate job-seeking skills, including resume writing and job interview skills.
- students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of workplace risk reduction and injury prevention.
- the Career Life Education curricular outcomes related to job seeking, job keeping, employment standards and workplace safety, must be successfully completed.

## Career Focus Areas for students to select from may include:

1. Business and Applied Business
2. Fine Arts, Design, and Media
3. Fitness and Recreation
4. Health and Human Services
5. Liberal Arts and Humanities
6. Science and Applied Science
7. Tourism, Hospitality, and Foods
8. Trades and Technology

## Note:

- These course are not intended as “instant credits” for students who have a part-time job.
- The time given to work experience may be within the timetable or outside of the timetable. Care will be taken to limit the loss of class time during work placements. After school, weekend, school Professional Development days, and possibly even holidays may be used for work experience.