



SUNY Applied Learning and COIL:

Reimagining the classroom to support today's learners.

Today's high-tech, global economy is fast-paced and moving forward every day, and we have to ensure that, above all else, we are preparing our students to be a part of it. That's why there is so much hype— and justifiably so—surrounding the expansion of applied learning opportunities in college, including everything from clinical placements and cooperative education to service learning, volunteerism, student research, international opportunities and field study.

The goal of the State University of New York's (SUNY) Applied Learning Initiative is to ensure that every SUNY student has the opportunity to take part in at least one applied learning experience before they graduate.

Applied learning refers to an educational approach whereby students learn by engaging in direct application of skills, theories and models. Students apply knowledge and skills gained from traditional classroom learning to hands-on and/or real-world settings, creative projects or independent or directed research, and in turn apply what is gained from the applied experience to academic learning. The applied learning activity can occur outside of the traditional classroom experience and/or be embedded as part of a course. Every one of SUNY's 64 campuses is committed to offering approved activities to students and 15 campuses have made Applied Learning a graduation Requirement.

Due to their interactive nature and cross-cultural skill building, COIL courses naturally fit into SUNY's Applied Learning Initiative. Any courses that include hands-on, real-world approaches alongside structured reflection and other quality criteria count as Applied Learning.

For over a decade the SUNY COIL Center has been reimagining education as a globally networked phenomenon. Collaborative Online International Learning* (COIL) links faculty across borders to co-create learning environments in which students gain valuable digital and cross-cultural competencies through collaboration with international peers. The COIL Center's Nodal and Global Partner Networks have grown from a handful of loosely participating campuses in 2006 to over 50 committed member institutions working to scale this model. We have expanded the landscape of higher education; at SUNY, across the US, and around the world by implementing the COIL model to benefit students, faculty, and staff.

**COIL is used to refer to any pedagogical activities that use technology to link classrooms and students in geographically distant locations through coursework. Among the other terms used to describe such activity are virtual exchange, virtual mobility, globally networked learning, telecollaboration, and online intercultural exchange.*

To find out more about COIL, visit coil.suny.edu

