
Information Commons: Employment as Experiential Learning

By Amanda Starkel & Megan Grady-Rutledge



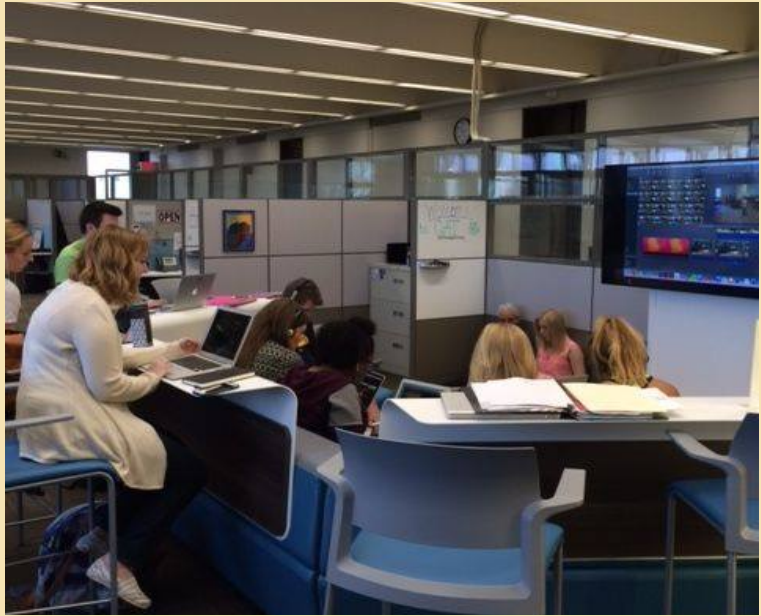
BUTLER
UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION COMMONS

Information Commons

“Since its inception in 2009, the program has been committed to providing its student employees with **experiential learning** opportunities revolving around **twenty-first century skills, self-development, and professional growth.**”

IC Service Locations



ICers



Learning Goals for Students in the Program

Students will develop, apply, and promote twenty-first century skills:

- Find, understand, evaluate, and use information, technology, and media ethically and legally
- Communicate effectively to foster collaboration in a project-based environment
- Apply integrative, critical, and creative thinking to address problems
- Expand global and social awareness, particularly as related to the information ecosystem

Learning Goals for Students in the Program

Through reflective practice, students will progress in their professional and self-development:

- Connect academic, personal, and career goals to work experiences to lay foundation for lifelong learning
- Participate in a professional environment by embracing service expectations, respecting policy, and engaging in organizational and self-assessment.
- Cultivate learning and skill development in others

Training: Overview

- Continuously evolving
- Housed in Moodle
- Checklist model



Training: Verifying Effectiveness

1. Peer leaders
2. Face-to-face checkpoints
3. Reflection portfolios



Created by Sharon Showalter
from Noun Project

Training: Contents

Current training sections:

- Day-to-Day Skills
- Butler-supported Technology Systems
- Information Ecosystem: Consuming & Creating
- Next Steps

Training Example 1

Training Section: **Outlook**

1. Checklist: prior knowledge & areas of improvement
2. Use Resources page and/or practice to fill in gaps
3. Test knowledge via activity
 - *Respond to realistic patron emails using specific Outlook features*
4. Student supervisor will verify activity

Training Example 2

Training Section: **Information and Visual Literacy**

1. Checklist: prior knowledge & areas of improvement
2. Use Resources page and/or practice to fill in gaps
3. Test knowledge via activities
 - *Critically reading photos*
 - *Infographic introduction & sharing*
 - *Reflection prompt: defining these literacies*
4. Student supervisor will verify activity

Student Example



Sharing Activity

by [redacted] Monday, January 30, 2017, 11:10 AM

<https://www.designmantic.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Golden-Rules-of-Visual-Hierarchy.jpg>

I chose this infographic because it has a wide range of colors, and presents artful images that pull the eyes this way and that. It is very clean and simple to understand. There is a balance between the amount of words and the amount of images, and they geographically alternate along the page. The layout is easy to follow. Not to mention this infographic is about visual hierarchy--perfect for an infographic!

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Re: Sharing Activity

by [redacted] - Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:18 AM

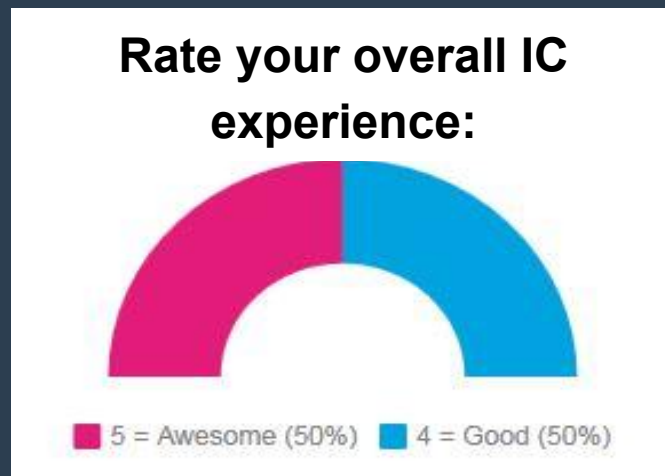
I like this infographic too! I particularly like how the numbers reflect the point being made. My only critique would be how long it is. With 15 points I am not sure how they could have condensed it besides eliminating or combining points though.

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Training: WHY

“Being able to practice the skills and having a checklist to see what skills we have acquired is helpful. While doing the trainings we kind of just go through some of the motions without really thinking about how we are improving our skills; the **checklist really brings things into perspective.**”

Training: Assessment Data



Post-Training Experience

Create training on patron privacy

Build a LibGuide for graduating students

Compete (and win) in library business case competition

Assist the Business Librarian with research instruction sessions

Facilitate iMovie instruction

Pilot new tech for the campus

Create infographics to assist with outreach and social media efforts

Training: Resource Sharing

<https://goo.gl/uXAzZ4>