

**LORRAINE
GODDEN:**

Hi, everyone. My name is Lorraine Godden, and I'm an instructor in the faculty of Public Affairs. And I'm going to introduce you to my FYSM 1700 online classroom and in particular talk to you about how I embedded FUSION into my FYSM 1700 Connecting Academics to Careers course. I should begin by telling you a little bit about the FYSM 1700 course and also explain what FUSION is.

Let's begin with FYSM 1700 Connecting Academics to Careers. This course provides students with an introduction to public affairs and working life and seeks to help students to maximize their learning from their university courses and programs of study to connect to a career in public affairs. In particular, students are expected to develop and acquire a range of skills that they need to successfully navigate their degree and understand how these skills are also transferable skills that they may need throughout their career.

When creating and delivering courses, particularly to first-year undergraduate students, it can be difficult to convince them to think of a career so early on in their program. But this is essential when you understand what career is and that it's not just about jobs, but that it is about the collective of learning and experiences that one undertakes throughout life. And that may or may not include paid work.

It can be easy to overlook how skills that students need to successfully navigate their career are also essential to support their academic progression and achievement. Helping students understand skills development therefore and see the benefit of how they can apply those skills in different academic and life contexts really helps them to engage with their learning. So if you can get this balance right, it is a worthwhile process to embed into your course. It helps students to successfully navigate their studies and navigate their career, a win-win. And this is where FUSION comes in.

The Future Skills Innovation Network project is a national cross collaborative network of Canadian universities who are focused on exploring innovative and exclusive, inclusive experiential learning approaches to foster skills development and prepare university students across Canada for a career within what we know is a rapidly evolving society and job market. The FUSION curriculum consists of 10 hours of self-directed online learning activities that can be integrated into any course.

And what these skills are based on is developing students' communication, problem solving, and metacognitive skills, all critical 21st century skills to support students not only with navigating their academics, but also support them with their career. The curriculum is designed within a framework of inclusive and innovative experiential learning and work integrated learning and has the potential to enrich any type of experiential learning, curricular, or co-curricular initiative that's developed with university students, whether they are undergraduate or graduate students.

The FUSION curriculum consists-- it refers to students' unique contexts with the general term of work experience. So with my course, first year students, not all of them are having an experiential learning experience during the first year. Many of them have not undertaken formal experiential learning previously, but they are learning how to apply the knowledge that they're developing through their course to real life contexts. And they are learning to reflect on that process, which is one of the key skills that students develop through experiential learning. And they're learning the benefits of that reflection and how that underpins and deepens their learning.

So for me, it was a natural fit to put FUSION into my FYSM course, because this was all of the pieces that I want the course to help students to develop and to hone and also learn that they need to continually work on developing those skills. So in my welcome to my online classroom session, I am going to share with you how I have embedded FUSION into my class, I will share what worked well, what didn't work so well, how FUSION has supported my learning objectives, how I used FUSION as an assignment within the course, and what FUSION looks like in my online course. And most importantly, I will share with you what my students have had to say about FUSION and the benefits that they have seen for them as they are working through the first year of their degree program. I am very excited to have this conversation with you all, and I look forward to our ongoing dialogue. Thank you.