

21C Curiosity Pods

Design Features

Design Feature	Factors
Prototype Curiosity Pods	The Curiosity Pods developed in 2018 were used as the prototypes for refining and agreeing the standard design features and system support for of our next cycle of 21C curriculum development.
Curiosity Pods are to be available to all Western University students regardless of what degree they are studying. They just have to sign-up and participate.	<p>They have no pre-requisites beyond those expected for university study.</p> <p>They are available as <i>co-curriculum</i> elements.</p> <p>They are also typically included in the formal curriculum of some programs - as a 2-credit point learning activity, <i>embedded</i> in a unit of study – or, in approved sequences of 4 Curiosity Pods combined with an integrative assessment Curiosity Pod (2CP) <i>aggregated</i> to form a 10CP unit of study.</p> <p>All Curiosity Pods have a vUWS site which tracks registration, participation, completion and gathers student evaluation data for continuous improvement.</p>
They offer engaging and accessible, bite-sized university-level learning experiences which equip students for success in today’s rapidly changing workplaces and societies.	<p>They are co-created using partnership pedagogy to deliver high levels of student engagement in authentic learning.</p> <p>They utilise a standard flipped curriculum design, with accessible online learning resources and highly engaging (central and/or locally distributed) face-to-face activities.</p> <p>They involve between 15 and 30 hours of student learning effort.</p> <p>They are learning activities appropriate for AQF level 7 or 8 curriculum (or AQF 5 or 6 in the College)</p>
They focus on developing students’ capabilities as: Future Thinkers, Innovative Entrepreneurs, Global Citizens and Sustainability Advocates.	They equip university graduates with ‘Future of Work and Society’ (21C) capabilities which complement the capabilities developed in students’ discipline studies.
Curiosity Pods taken as co-curriculum don’t have assessment requirements beyond the learning activities that generate a record of successful participation.	<p>There is no ‘load’ associated with co-curriculum experiences – so co-curriculum Curiosity Pods should not have substantive assessment workload for staff.</p> <p>When embedded in a unit, the unit assessment will assess learning from the Curiosity Pod(s).</p>

<p>The record of successful completion provides an artefact.</p>	<p>The successful completion of the Curiosity Pods will be recorded on a University micro-credential platform – or stored in the student’s e-Portfolio.</p>
<p>Co-Curriculum Curiosity Pods - You just have to sign-up and participate.</p>	<p>Students find out about Curiosity Pods through School or University communication channels.</p> <p>When taken as co-curriculum elements, students indicate their interest through a webpage link which registers their interest with the Curiosity Pod convenor and their names are added to the class list in vUWS.</p> <p>The ability for students to enrol directly in co-curriculum Curiosity Pods will be a functionality of the new SMS and auto enrolment via vUWS is being investigated.</p>
<p>Embedded Curriculum Curiosity Pods</p>	<p>Curiosity Pods are also <i>embedded</i> as a learning activity in some units.</p> <p>When taken as a required learning activity embedded in a unit, the student enrolls in the unit and the student is automatically added to the Curiosity Pod’s vUWS site.</p>
<p>Aggregated Curriculum Curiosity Pods</p>	<p>A sequence of 4 designated Curiosity Pods aggregated with an assessment Curiosity Pod, makes up a 10-credit point unit.</p> <p>When 4 approved Curiosity Pods are taken as a sequence of learning activities, aggregated and assessed as a unit, the student registers for the co-curriculum Curiosity Pods in the usual way, then enrolls in the ‘shell’ unit in order to access the integrated Assessment Curiosity Pod, to complete the unit.</p> <p>Students can enrol in the unit after completing two of the Curiosity Pods and must enrol before completing the Assessment Curiosity Pod.</p>