**Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)**

*Collaborative Online International Learning* connects students and professors in different countries for collaborative projects and discussions as part of their coursework.

**COIL Collaborations** between students and professors provide meaningful, significant opportunities for global experiences built into programs of study. COIL enhances intercultural student interaction through proven approaches to meaningful online engagement, while providing universities a cost-effective way to ensure that their students are globally engaged.*

**COIL CONCEPTS**

- Based on academic research surrounding the pedagogy of teaching and learning across different cultures.
- Virtually connects students across the world and across linguacultural backgrounds.
- Developed for any academic discipline, from nursing to cinema studies, or across disciplines.

**BENEFITS OF COIL**

- Cross-cultural communication and language learning without physical travel.
- Alternative to programs abroad international experience when cost is a prohibitive factor.
- Allows students with rigid course schedules to participate in an international experience.
- Research, collaboration and long-term partnerships between both professors and students.

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*COIL definition obtained from the State University of New York website coil.suny.edu*
COIL ADMINISTRATION
Technology Platforms
Appropriate platforms are video conferencing app Zoom, online meeting space Gather.Town and other similar live collaboration platforms.

COIL Module Length
COIL is often offered as a component of an existing course. The COIL Module typically lasts 5–14 weeks.

The Four-Stage COIL Module
SUNY recommends the following progression of phases during an effective COIL Module.

- **Icebreakers, teambuilding, developing trust**
- **Comparative discussion, organizing teams**
- **Collaborative project work, problem solving**
- **Presentation, reflection, conclusion**

COIL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
Program Example
The first-ever COIL program at UT was a six-week collaboration with Nukus State Pedagogical Institute in Nukus, Uzbekistan. Moonhee Cho, associate professor in the Tombras School of Advertising and Public Relations, was one of 10 faculty members from U.S. institutions to receive a grant award from the Central Asia University Partnerships Program, UniCEN, to pilot the COIL initiative. For UT students, the class was incorporated into a core requirement course for public relations. During the program, students from both UT and NSPI focused on the course subject of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13, Climate Action, and particularly on communication around climate issues.

Path to Expanding COIL at UT
The Office of Asia Engagement, located within the Center for Global Engagement, is key in connecting faculty with funding and resources for COIL programming. Learn more about the Office of Asia Engagement at cge.utk.edu/oae

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