

## **POP Fact Sheet**

### **Have you ever wondered:**

*Is there any value to a university education beyond my degree?*

*What can I do with my life science degree?*

*How can my personal and professional goals fit together?*

Engaging in POP should assist you in addressing questions like these.

### **What is POP?**

POP stands for *Profiling Opportunity: Pathways to the Future*.

POP is an exciting project in CSB that uses the creative power of video to envision a future of career possibilities and opportunities for students in the life sciences.

### **What is the overall goal of POP?**

POP is designed to help students to create their own pathways into the future, and to continually learn and grow as engaged and self-directed members of the community and the working world.

### **How does POP work?**

A media team, of up to 8 Cell & Systems Biology (or life science stream) undergraduates, works with CSB professor Ashley Bruce and media professional Sree Nallamothu to create short videos that profile professional and educational opportunities for students.

The media team works as video producers and drives the creative development, production and distribution of the videos.

The final videos will be shown at a gala POP screening in Spring 2016.

### **What are the video profiles about?**

There are 3 types of videos:

1. **'A Day in the Life'**: Shadow professionals in their work life, using a personal one-on-one style.
2. **'Want to Know'**: Reflect on the value of education, beyond the degree, by exploring questions students are asking through conversations with alumni, mentors and peers.
3. **'Spectrum of Opportunity'**: Thinking outside of the box and investigating career and learning opportunities where disciplines intersect (for example; arts and science, politics and science, international development and science).

Last year the POP team made the following videos:

1. Profiling the U of T student (about life science students at U of T)
2. Dr. Peter Lin, a family doctor and CBC health commentator
3. Manal Siddiqui, a Manager at Clinical Trials Ontario
4. Natalie Intven, a Biomedical illustrator at Imagineering, Inc.
5. Several short interviews with recent alumni

**You can check out all the videos from last year and learn more here:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profilingopportunity>

### **What are the benefits of being on the media team?**

POP will strengthen key skills, such as communication, research, collaboration, evaluation and critical thinking. These skills are directly applicable to academic study and are highly desired by employers. Participating in POP will provide immediate as well as long-term benefits.

You will learn many practical skills around video design, production, story telling and interviewing.

Students on the media team will receive co-curricular credit for their participation.

### **How much time is involved?**

POP will run for 10 weeks from October 2015 through April 2016.

Members of the media team will generally meet twice a week for a total of 4-5 hours per week. As with any project, some periods will be busier than others. During the busy periods, additional time outside of the weekly meetings may be required.

Since you will be working as a team, there is flexibility built into the scheduling, such that not all team members will have to attend every meeting or event.

### **How can I apply to be on the media team?**

To apply, fill out the on-line application form. Applications can be submitted anytime up until the final deadline, which is 5 pm on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Interviews will be scheduled shortly after applications are received.

### **Are there other ways to get involved with POP?**

Yes, you can play an important role in POP even if you aren't a member of the media team. These videos are for you!

There will be a meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in Ramsay Wright Room 010 where you can tell us your ideas. We want to know what questions you have about your time in university and beyond. What careers are you most interested in learning about? What concerns do you have about integrating your personal and professional goals?

Also look out for POP video screening events in the fall term, check our FB page regularly and attend our final screening event in Spring 2016. The screening will include a panel discussion and plenty of time for your comments and feedback.