

# Experiential Learning in ESP:

## An Example of an English Guided Tour Course

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(Abstract)

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### INTRODUCTION

Many studies have explored how Kolb's Experiential Learning Model, published in 1984, aids student learning across various fields. This research demonstrates how incorporating activities such as field trips (**feeling**), worksheets (**observing and reporting**), and project-based group work (**thinking and doing**) can enhance students' learning outcomes (see Chart 1).

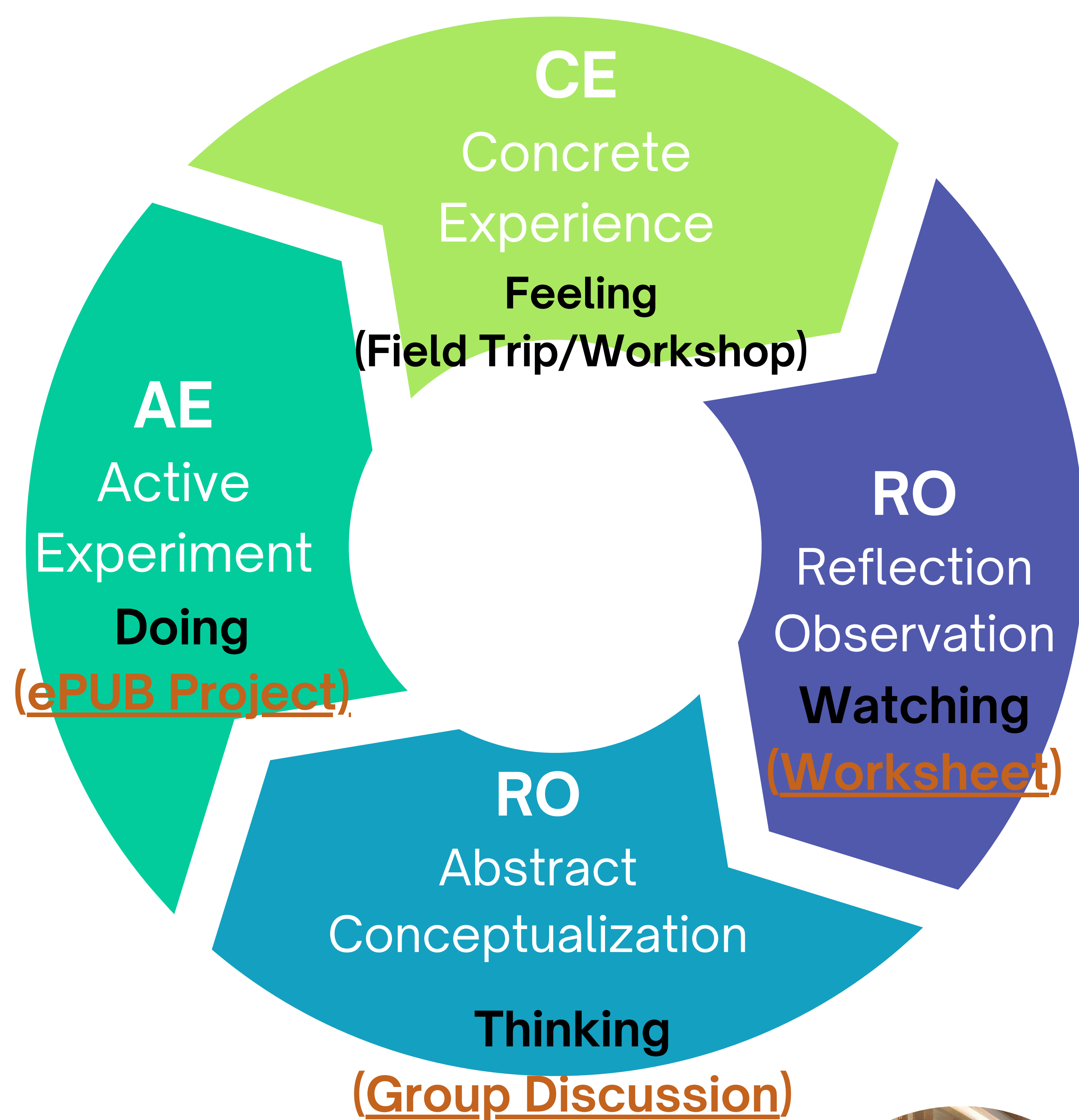
### OBJECTIVE

- To include **Kolb's Experiential Learning Model** in the course design.
- Student can **learn effectively** when they engage in **hand-on experiences** (field trips and interpretation workshops).
- Student can be familiar with **English technical terms and interpretation skills**.

### METHODOLOGY

**Sample:** 217 undergraduate students of 7 colleges enrolled in the elective general education course: **English for Guided Tour & Interpretation (GTI)** (GC\_62460).  
**Time:** 2021 to 2023 Academic Year (6 semesters)

CHART 1. COURSE DESIGN



### ANALYSIS

The data used to evaluate students' performance included worksheets from interpretation workshops, in-class oral practices, the midterm exam, and group projects. An online survey, administered by the Office of Academic Affairs, was conducted to assess students' perceptions.

- Term Scores:** An independent samples t-test was used to examine the difference in scores between students who attended field trips and those who did not.
- Course Satisfaction:** Descriptive statistics were provided to compare satisfaction levels between students in this course and those enrolled in general education courses.

### RESULTS

**Samples:** The majority of students were from Education college (35%), followed by Science & Engineering, Management, and then Humanity & Social Science colleges (Chart 2).

- Objective 1:** The course design included six **field trips** and six campus walking tours, which helped students develop interpretation skills and acquire relevant vocabulary for guiding. By reporting the interpretation techniques **observed** during these activities in worksheets, students were able to **conceptualize** and analyze which skills to **apply** in their final project—a digital page introducing the NDHU campus. The project culminated in the creation of an ePub Campus Guide, showcasing the students' learning outcomes.
- Objective 2:** The t-test results showed that Levene's test indicated equal variances ( $F = 2.97, p > 0.05$ ). Assuming equal variances, the t-test revealed a significant difference ( $t = -2.10, p < 0.05$ ), with a mean difference of -3.90. This finding suggests that students who attended field trips scored **significantly higher** than those who did not. It implies that students with more concrete, hands-on experiences were better able to effectively apply what they learned in real-life situations.
- Objective 3:** According to the 180 responses collected, the teaching evaluation scores for GTI classes were **higher** than the average scores of all undergraduate courses. This implies that the course design effectively enhances student engagement and satisfaction.

CHART 2. COLLEGES

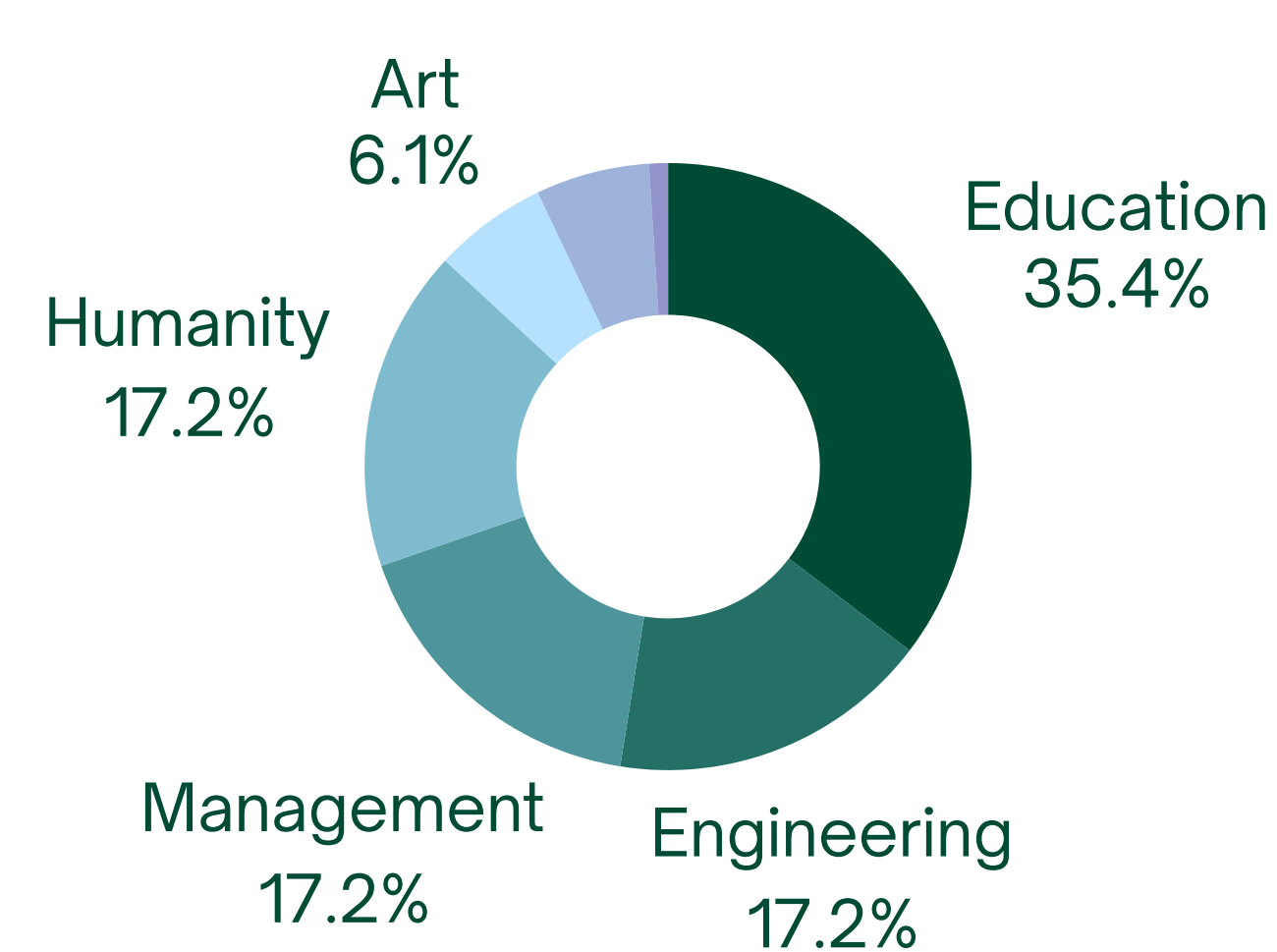
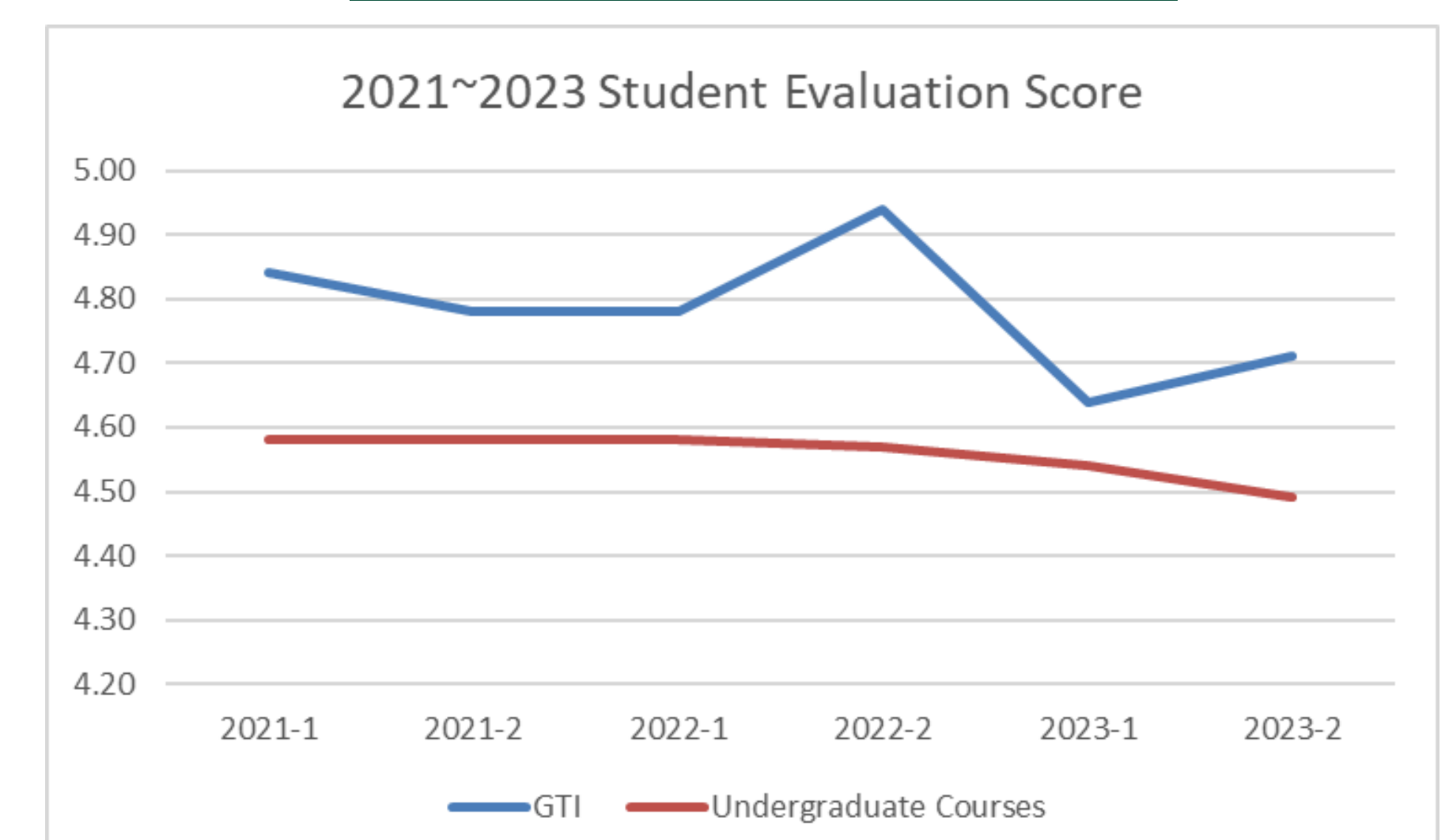


CHART 3. SATISFACTION



2023 Guiding at Xincheng County & Beach Cleaning



2022 Guiding at a historical site, Fenglin in a responsible way



2021 Guiding at Wild Monkey Adventure

Click the brown words for more information

### REFERENCES

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### CONCLUSION

- The Experiential Learning Model was shown to effectively enhance students' learning outcomes.
- Students reported high satisfaction with a learning environment that emphasized hands-on experience, observation, conceptualization, and action.

### FUTURE RESEARCH

- Further research could explore students' competencies using varied grading schemes or alternative assignments and projects.
- In the course design, incorporating sustainability concepts and AI tools into the experiential learning process can enhance both the educational experience and relevance to current industry trends.