

Introduction and History

Virtual Enterprises provides students with an authentic collaborative business and entrepreneurship experience through its live global business simulation model. Launched in 1996 as an initiative of the NYC Department of Education and based on the European apprenticeship concept, Virtual Enterprise students run business ventures in their classrooms and engage in trading with other student-run businesses both nationally and internationally.

With the guidance of a teacher-facilitator and a business partner, VE students establish and manage a company that replicates all the functions and demands of a real business. In each firm (class), students apply to work in different areas of the company overseen by department managers and a CEO. A typical firm is staffed in Operations, Accounting, Finance, Sales, Marketing, Human Resources, Design and IT. Students take VE as a year-long, credit-bearing course, which is enhanced by regional, national, and international business plan competitions and trade shows.

Guided by a task-based curriculum rather than a textbook, VE students produce the key deliverables that are required in a real business. Students conduct market research, work cooperatively to develop and write a business plan, design and implement an e-commerce website, recruit and market to clients/customers, and pay wages and taxes. Firms engage in international trade with other VE firms on a continuous basis, participating in a global economy of over 7,500 firms across 42 countries. The transfer of funds is made electronically through a web-based banking system that links firms worldwide. The simulation environment allows business thinking to flourish and encourages risk-taking and continuous cycles of improvement and innovation.

This simulation enables students to understand how employees, workgroup teams, and departments interact with each other and work together to meet the goals of the company while at the same time conveying the expectations of the workplace.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the course will develop:

- a greater awareness of conducting business in a global context.
- the ability to develop problem-solving strategies.
- the ability to work in teams.
- improved communication skills.
- workplace competencies.
- an understanding of management objectives and organizational structures.
- their personal interests, skills and abilities as it relates to a career.
- planning, decision-making, technology and critical thinking skills.
- entrepreneurial skills and concepts.



Curriculum & Standards

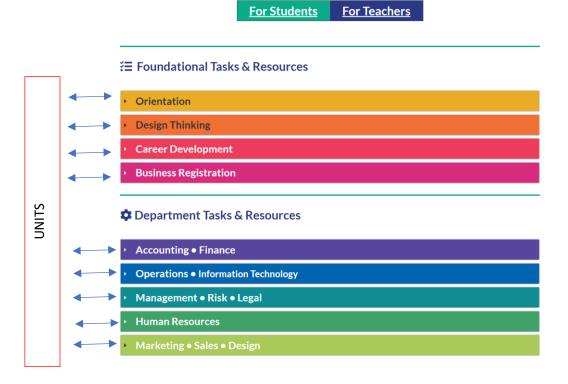
VE's task-based curriculum combines both academic and applied learning and has been aligned to Common Career Technical Core standards. It has also been aligned to the Career Readiness Framework, developed by Deloitte and VE that captures key competencies and skills employers seek and students need to succeed in business, and which can be used with assessment tools to demonstrate, measure and communicate career readiness. A copy of the Career Readiness Framework is provided in the "For Teachers" section of the curriculum.

About the Curriculum and Resources

The VE task-based curriculum is an applied-learning, project-based document that reflects the action-learning approach and the activities found in the workplace. The curriculum content identifies the tasks that are necessary to establish and run a company. All tasks and activities are supported by numerous resources (banking system, activity map, VE marketplace, online tools, readings, video, models, rubrics) and are delivered through VE's Learning Management System (LMS). (See A Guide to VE's Learning Management System (LMS) found under "For Teachers" in the VE Course). A Pacing Guide provides task sequencing recommendations to help teachers roll out tasks to accomplish production of deliverables.

How the Curriculum and Resources are Organized

The Virtual Enterprise class is organized by departments typically found in a business organization: Operations, Accounting, Finance, Human Resources, Sales/Marketing, Design, IT. The tasks are organized in these same department units. Noted below is the layout of VE task units in the VE course.





Foundational Tasks & Resources includes activities that students must complete during the first few weeks of the school year when students are introduced to the VE concept and expectations. Foundational tasks lay the groundwork for students to transition into departmental roles. Foundational Tasks should be more teacher directed than facilitated.

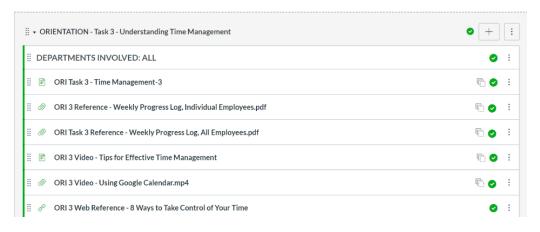
Department Tasks & Resources includes activities that students must complete after they are placed in departments. A new Management unit includes Risk Management and Legal tasks. Management tasks can be assigned to employees as appropriate within the VE class. Department tasks should be teacher-facilitated and not teacher directed.

Clicking on unit will display the tasks in that unit.

≔ Foundational Tasks & Resources

▼ Orientation				
These modules provide department specific tasks as we Orientation Tasks	ell a resources that support ta	Career Readiness Competency	Portfolio	Design Thinking
Task 1 - Introduction to Virtual Enterprises	ALL	• P, CT	₫	
Task 2 - Team Building	ALL	• L, P, CT		
Task 3 - Understanding Time Management	ALL	• P, CT		
Task 4 - Communication Strategies	ALL	• P, CT	△	
Task 5 - Establish Meeting Procedures	ALL	• P, CT	₫	
Design Thinking				
Career Development				
Business Registration				

Clicking on a task will display the entire module that includes the Task (listed first in the module) and resources that support that task.





Each task is organized as shown below and includes competency dimensions, departments involved, timeframe for the activity, objectives, material/resources, activities/strategies, follow up, action items and mastery/assessment.

A course outline can be found in the "For Teachers" section. The outline includes all tasks, task objectives, and alignment to standards.

Personal Finance Tasks

Personal Finance tasks can be found in the "For Students" section. Teachers may deliver this unit or individual tasks during the year as their schedules dictate. If you plan to play the Stock Market Game with your VE class, you should be mindful of the schedule of playing sessions. Visit https://www.stockmarketgame.org/ for more information about the game.

