

Experiential Learning

The Experiential Learning requirement engages students in the first-hand discovery of knowledge through observation and participation in activities, most often in field-based settings outside the classroom. This inductive process of “learning by doing and reflecting” is supported by theory-based information. In these courses, students compare and analyze issues, problems, and ideas through the lenses of their own personal experiences and evolving intellectual worldview.

Experiential Learning may take place in a regularly scheduled course, an approved internship, a Study Abroad course*, or in an independent study approved on a case-by-case basis (utilizing the proper Independent Study Approval Form). All such courses may be offered in the student’s major and may count for both major field and Liberal Studies requirements. When more than four credit hours are earned from such an experience – for example, an eight-hour internship – four hours may be counted toward Liberal Studies requirements and four hours toward major program requirements. Experiential Learning is typically taken in the junior year as major field or other foundational knowledge is essential to ensure a successful outcome.

Forms of Experiential Learning

Study Abroad

Study Abroad programs emphasize social, political, historical and cultural understanding through a total immersion into the life and culture of a foreign country. Study trips abroad range in duration from two weeks to a full academic year.

*Note: Students who participate in non-DPU study abroad programs for transfer credit must petition their respective colleges for Experiential Learning credit.

Domestic Study

For students interested in diverse populations and locations outside Chicago yet within the United States, domestic study courses offer students the opportunity to pursue such inquiry.

Community-based Service Learning

Community-based Service learning courses provide students with the opportunity to work with a community organization or agency and to reflect upon what they have learned through this service in class discussions. Opportunities are available through the Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning.

Internships

Internship courses offer students the opportunity to gain real world experience in hiring, employment, communication, and the culture of businesses or organizations. Students who apply and receive internship opportunities through the University Internship Program register for ISP 250. In addition, some Colleges and departments offer 200-level and 300-level internships that satisfy the experiential learning requirement.

Individual or group research projects

These research projects involve extensive field or laboratory work. The projects are supervised, evaluated and graded by a faculty member.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Apply particular concepts from readings, lectures, etc. to an analysis of lived experiences in the settings provided by the course.
- Use the experiences provided by the course to construct and articulate the impact of their experience on their understanding of course content.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethics appropriate to his or her experiential placement.
- Synthesize and articulate how the ideas and experiences provided by the course might inform their personal, academic, and/or professional pursuits.

Courses

Below please find examples of courses previously offered for Experiential Learning. For information on current offerings, please consult Campus Connection.

Accounting

- ACC 393 INTERNSHIP IN ACCOUNTANCY

American Studies

- AMS 392 INTERNSHIP

Anthropology

- ANT 280 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK
- ANT 322 COMMUNITY-BASED APPLIED PRACTICE

Art Media and Design

- ART 291 MURAL PAINTING
- ART 292 COMMUNITY VIDEO PRODUCTION
- ART 348 GRAPHIC ART IN THE PUBLIC REALM
- ART 382 INTEGRATING ART INTO THE CURRICULUM AND THE COMMUNITY
- ART 383 SERVICE LEARNING IN THE ARTS INTERNSHIP

Biology

- BIO 302 STUDENT LABORATORY INSTRUCTION
- BIO 303 INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Catholic Studies

- CTH 229 CATHOLICISM AS A SPIRITUAL PATH
- CTH 282 GOD, JUSTICE AND REDEMPTIVE ACTION
- CTH 341 LIBERATION THEOLOGY: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Chemistry

- CHE 392 INTERNSHIP
- CHE 397 RESEARCH

Commerce

- ICS 350 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SEMINAR

Communication

- CMN 394 ADVANCED COMMUNICATION INTERNSHIP
- CMN 398 STUDY ABROAD

Community Service Studies

- CSS 201 CRITICAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- CSS 300 INTRODUCTION TO NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT
- CSS 310 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRISON
- CSS 395 COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP

Computer Graphics and Animation

- GPH 360 MODELING SPACES

Computer Science

- CSC 298 INTERNSHIP
- CSC 378 SOFTWARE PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY CLIENTS
- CSC 379 TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS IN URBAN SCHOOLS

Digital Cinema

- DC 298 INTERNSHIP IN MEDIA PRODUCTION/POST-PRODUCTION
- DC 380 PROJECT BLUELIGHT
- DC 396 TOPICS IN STUDY ABROAD

Education

- TCH 320 EXPLORING TEACHING IN THE URBAN HIGH SCHOOL

English

- ENG 378 LITERATURE AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
- ENG 392 INTERNSHIP
- ENG 397 NEWBERRY LIBRARY SEMINAR

Environmental Sciences

- ENV 235 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP
- ENV 322 ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY
- ENV 345 URBAN AGRICULTURE
- ENV 361 RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Finance

- FIN 393 FINANCE INTERNSHIP

Geography

- GEO 133 URBAN GEOGRAPHY - EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
- GEO 211 BIOGEOGRAPHY

Graphic Design

- GD 380 DESIGN FOR CLIENT AND COMMUNITY

History

- HST 382 CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM EXPERIENCE
- HST 391 DOING LOCAL AND COMMUNITY HISTORY
- HST 392 PUBLIC HISTORY INTERNSHIP

Honors Program

- HON 350 HONORS SENIOR SEMINAR

Hospitality Leadership

- HSP 303 and HSP 304 HOSPITALITY INTERNSHIP II

Information Technology

- IT 300 RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
- IT 394 SOFTWARE PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY CLIENTS I
- IT 398 TOPICS IN GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Intercultural Communication

- CMNS 205 COMMUNICATION, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

International Studies

- INT 389 INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Latino/Latin American Studies

- LST 303 BORDER MATTERS:LITERATURE & CULTURE IN THE LATINO/A BORDERLANDS
- LST 306 LATINO COMMUNITIES IN CHICAGO
- LST 307 GROWING UP LATINO/LATINA IN THE U.S.
- LST 308 MOTHERHOOD IN LATINO COMMUNITIES
- LST 309 SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND LATINO FAMILIES

Liberal Studies Program

- LSP 320 and LSP 321 PEER EDUCATION THEORY AND PRACTICE II

Management

- MGT 393 INTERNSHIP AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTING PROGRAM

Marketing

- MKT 393 MARKETING INTERNSHIP

Mathematics

- MAT 390 MATHEMATICS READING AND RESEARCH
- MAT 397 MATHEMATICAL PEDAGOGY: THEORY & PRACTICE

Music

- MUS 208 COMMUNITY AUDIO ART PRODUCTION

Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies

- PAX 200 COMMUNITIES WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE JUSTICE AND PEACE: SERVICE IN CHICAGO AND THE U.S.

Philosophy

- PHL 250 PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Physics

- PHY 380 EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS I
- PHY 398 READING AND RESEARCH

Political Science

- PSC 284 MOCK TRIAL: CIVIL LAW
- PSC 285 MOCK TRIAL: CRIMINAL LAW
- PSC 286 CAMPAIGNS AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
- PSC 288 BIKING, POLITICS AND POLICY
- PSC 392 INTERNSHIP

Psychology

- PSY 305 PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- PSY 306 SERVICE LEARNING
- PSY 311 CONNECTING WITH YOUTH THROUGH RESEARCH, ADVOCACY, AND SERVICE: QUARTER 2
- PSY 359 FIELD WORK IN COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND ACTION
- PSY 369 EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
- PSY 395 FIELD WORK/INTERNSHIP
- PSY 396 HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY
- PSY 397 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING/PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH

Public Policy Studies

- PPS 251 URBAN POVERTY
- PPS 331 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Religious Studies

- REL 259 RELIGION AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
- REL 284 CATHOLICISM AS A SPIRITUAL PATH
- REL 351 LIBERATION THEOLOGY
- REL 392 FOREIGN STUDY IN RELIGION
- REL 393 INTERNSHIP IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

School for New Learning

- SNC 186 SPIRITUALITY AND HOMELESSNESS
- SNC 198 MINDFULNESS MEDITATION RETREAT AT STARVED ROCK
- SNC 211 WRITE WHERE YOU ARE: WRITING ABOUT THE PLACES WE LIVE
- SNC 219 CONNECTING WITH AFRICA: CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN EAST AFRICA

Sociology

- SOC 394 COMMUNITY BASED SOCIOLOGY
- SOC 398 INTERNSHIP

Spanish

- SPN 124 INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I: SERVICE LEARNING
- SPN 125 INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II: SERVICE LEARNING
- SPN 126 INTERMEDIATE SPANISH III: SERVICE LEARNING
- SPN 391 SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF HERITAGE LANGUAGE LITERACY
- SPN 393 LATINO MEDIA AND DIGITAL CULTURE LITERACY
- SPN 394 LATINO CULTURAL LITERACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Study Abroad

- For additional information, please consult the Study Abroad Website.

University Internship Program

- UIP 250 YOU, YOUR WORK AND THE WORLD
- UIP 251 VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP
- UIP 252 CREATIVITY AS A CHANGE AGENT THE WORKPLACE
- UIP 253 EXPLORE NONPROFIT, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY CAREERS
- UIP 254 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- UIP 350 NAVIGATING THE CHANGING WORKPLACE
- UIP 367 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Women's and Gender Studies

- WGS 392 INTERNSHIP

Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse

- WRD 376 FIELDWORK IN ARTS WRITING
- WRD 377 WRITING AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
- WRD 395 WRITING CENTER THEORY & PEDAGOGY
- WRD 398 INTERNSHIP