

The Experiential Learning Requirement in the Connections Curriculum

In the Connections Curriculum, Learning Outcome 1 focuses on how students' co-curricular and academic experiences have shaped their personal, professional, and civic identities. One of the requirements in LO1 is that students will complete two approved experiential learning opportunities, and those could be from any of the following categories:

- Already-approved experiences
 - EXPR-100X: Approved FIRE Week programs (some may be designated as CE but will count as experiential learning if the student has already completed their CE requirement)
 - EXPR-100S: Study away (Witt-run programs such as Washington semester, Witt in Witt semesters)
 - All internships (usually DEPT-491, but sometimes DEPT-490 or DEPT-492; EXPR-491 is for experiences that are not well matched to a particular department)
 - First-Year Research Award (FYRA)
 - All honors theses (DEPT-499)
 - Civic engagement (in addition to the CE requirement that all students must complete)
- Specific EXPR-100 experiences requiring an EXPR-100 proposal and approval by GEAC (zero-credit; pass/fail), which fall into one of the following categories
 - EXPR-100E: On-campus employment (each position must be submitted/approved)
 - EXPR-100L: Leadership experience (e.g., ambassador, team captain, RA, etc.)
 - EXPR-100P: Professional experience (e.g., work related to career contexts, interests, skills, etc.)
 - EXPR-100R: Mentored research (e.g., FYRA, opportunities in particular academic depts)
 - EXPR-100S: Study away (e.g., individual new programs such as summer field studies)
 - *Approved opportunities can be found at <https://www.wittenberg.edu/experiential-learning>*
- Experiential learning-designated courses requiring an LO1 proposal and approval by GEAC
 - Some major/dept courses such as capstones, senior thesis, student teaching, independent research, etc.
 - *Approved courses can be found through an advanced Course Catalog search in Self-Service; select LO1*

Advising Students about Experiential Learning Requirements

- Academic advisors should discuss these requirements with advisees and how they can identify approved opportunities that align with their interests. Ideally, this conversation occurs early on so they can recognize and take advantage of opportunities of interest along the way.
- These kinds of opportunities should be framed as helping students explore possible academic, personal, and career interests, so they should not wait until their senior year to complete both.
- This is not a requirement that can be completed retroactively after the experience has taken place, as it must be already approved for LO1 by GEAC before starting and students must reflect on what they are learning and make connections to their other experiences at Witt while it is in progress.

Proposing an Experience for Experiential Learning Credit

To help provide ample opportunities for all students, faculty and staff are encouraged to consider what kinds of experiences in their area/department/line of work could be proposed as a meaningful experience for students based on the list of categories above. The experience may be integrated into an existing or new course, or it could be a stand-alone, one-time or recurring offering. To qualify for course designation or as a stand-alone experience, there must be a minimum of 35 hours of direct engagement in the activity, plus at least three opportunities for students to meet with the faculty or staff member supervising the experience to discuss/reflect upon their experiences in a structured and substantive way over the course of the semester. The supervisor may choose to specify other requirements for the student as part of this experience. At the end, the supervisor must assign and collect a reflection from the student(s), as is done with all LO-designated courses and experiences in the Connections Curriculum.

To propose an EXPR 100, please complete the proposal form at <https://forms.office.com/r/RZacEZaKTP>

To propose a course for LO1 designation, please complete the proposal form at <https://forms.office.com/r/J51UwJ79hS>

Questions may be directed to Stefne Broz, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Student Success (sbroz@wittenberg.edu)