

Introduction to External Programs

In light of the mission of Messiah College, External Programs provides students with developmental and experiential learning opportunities to respond to the challenges of their local and global communities. Collectively, the various External Programs areas have cultivated hundreds of partnerships that connect students with contextual learning opportunities in local, urban, and international settings. Many include components of service-learning, and field-based observation, work experience and research related to their academic their discipline and vocation.

Who am I? . . . What do I want to do? . . . What are my options? . . . How do I decide? . . . How do I prepare?

The Career Center is a comprehensive First – Senior year career counseling and resource center for all students and all majors. The Career Center will help you and your advisees through comprehensive services designed to prepare students personally and professionally on essential aspects of career planning and preparation. **See our web page at: www.messiah.edu/offices/career.**

What is the EpiCenter and what are my options for off-campus study?

The Experiential Programs Information Center (**EpiCenter**), located in Eisenhower Campus Center, is a one-stop-shop for you to explore off-campus study opportunities—**cross cultural courses, study abroad, internships, exchange programs, Philadelphia Campus, service-learning**—that will enrich your college education. You can travel across the ocean to Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. You can visit our neighbors to the south in Latin America, or discover educational adventures here in the United States. The EpiCenter houses catalogs, brochures, course listings, applications, videos, and travel-related literature and resources. You also can learn about costs, deadlines, and requirements, as well as obtain passport photos, passport applications, and International Student Identity Cards. **For additional information, browse the EpiCenter Homepage at: www.messiah.edu/studyabroad.**

How can I earn academic credit or volunteer through service and mission opportunities?

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning is a resource center for all opportunities related to service and mission. Opportunities range from local community service to national and international service and mission. There are a variety of ongoing, short-term, and summer options, some of which are credit-bearing. For more information, stop by the Agapé Center or check out our website at: www.messiah.edu/agape.

How can I arrange for an urban immersion experience in Philadelphia or take a semester of enrichment courses at Temple University?

Located adjacent to Temple University, Messiah College-Philadelphia Campus (MCPC) offers students a wide variety of courses to supplement their Grantham courses, and provides students with a variety of venues to enrich their academic pursuits. In addition to having an urban immersion experience, students can take a semester of courses that meet Gen. Ed. requirements, take enrichment courses in their major, pursue a limited number of Philadelphia Campus majors, enroll in the Urban Semester Program, meet their cross-cultural requirement, pursue community-based research and service, and arrange for internship placements with major urban agencies, organizations, and corporations.

Why experience an internship for academic credit?

- Gain access to selective internship sites.
- Many sites require academic accountability.
- Think about, and develop, personal and professional skills which help you succeed in your career and lifelong learning.
- Open doors to graduate school by having an internship recorded in your transcript.
- Protect yourself legally under the college's liability policy.
- Process opportunities and challenges through personal interaction with peers and faculty.
- Develop a Masterwork Portfolio, which highlights your self-directed learning ability. great for job and graduate school interviews!

For more information, visit the Internship Center's website at:
http://www.messiah.edu/external_programs/internship/

What is the Latino Partnership and how can I get involved?

The goal of the Latino Partnership is to facilitate the involvement of students, staff, and faculty in the Latino community of Harrisburg as well as to enhance the exchange of resources between this local group and Messiah College. The role of the Partnership also includes identifying, voicing, and meeting the needs of this community. For more information, contact the Office of External Programs at Campus Ext. 7373.