

Experiential Learning (ELI) Course Revision Grants (Service-Learning, Cross-Cultural, Practica)

Objective:

To allow faculty to incorporate the parameters of experiential learning into existing cross-cultural, service learning or practicum courses.

Proposed Program:

Under the college's strategic plan, the Experiential Learning Initiative Oversight Committee has developed a program, drawing input from numerous constituencies impacted by the program's implementation, and adopted by the Community of Educators Senate in Spring 2015. While these experiences already exist in some form on campus, there are several new components required for these experiences to meet ELI.

A new common reflection component that addresses the primary outcomes of career development and community engagement will make the ELI experiences distinctive. In other words, experiential learning in light of the ELI will be augmented to allow students to be even more intentional and to cultivate greater connection and application of their learning to multiple contexts. This being the case, students participating in an ELI experience will have an educator-advisor whose role is to provide meaningful feedback toward the ELI-specific outcomes. As a result of engaging in the ELI, students will learn to articulate the tangible impact of their experience on their academic learning, personal and professional development, and community contributions.

To ensure that the ELI leads to the stated outcomes of career development and community engagement, students will be required to translate the learning from their reflection into a "deliverable" that is contextualized for an external audience relevant to the students' future goals (employer, graduate school, etc.). Options for deliverables include: a resume; ePortfolio; website; LinkedIn profile; or poster presentation. The degree of flexibility within these options for the required deliverable is determined by each advisory team.

The extent to which experiential learning is valuable to one's personal and professional development is dependent upon a systematic process that facilitates students' ability to synthesize, reflect on, connect to, and articulate the value to a target audience. The ELI aims to teach and prepare students to articulate their "Messiah story" in a way that is meaningful to prospective employers and their communities. Educators will need to evaluate students using the common ELI assessment rubric.

Grants available:

12 grants at \$500 for the 2016-17 academic year.

Application Requirements:

- a) Proposal including delineation of work needed to revise course in order to incorporate ELI.
- b) Current course syllabus.
- c) Internal grant connection (if applicable) – Have you received any other grants for the 2015-16 academic year in relation to this course?

Applications are due by March 15, 2016. Submit applications to Dr. Robin Lauerma, Assistant Dean of General Education, Common Learning and Advising at rlauerma@messiah.edu.

Selection:

Determined by the Experiential Learning Initiative Oversight Committee.