IV. Experiential Learning Initiative (ELI)

Contents

Experiential Learning Degree Requirement

The Experiential Learning Initiative (ELI) is a common learning requirement. ELI-approved experiences include the following categories: Internships/Practica, Service Learning, Leadership, Off-Campus Programs and Undergraduate Research.

ELI provides students with a structured framework to engage their chosen experience in a way that leads to enhanced self-awareness, career preparation and community engagement opportunities. The ELI aims to teach and prepare students to articulate their "Messiah story" and the tangible impact of their experiences in a way that is meaningful to prospective employers, graduate programs and their communities.

- Students are introduced to the ELI through the CCC course.
- Students must have completed a minimum of *24 credits* prior to completing an approved experience to fulfill their ELI requirement. For transfer students, credits from other institutions will be considered toward the 24 credit requirement.
- Students should check their degree audit and also consult their academic advisor on whether or not a requirement in their major fulfills their ELI requirement.
- *Prior experiences that occur outside of Messiah are not eligible to meet the ELI requirement.*

While students only need to complete one of the experiences to fulfill their ELI requirement, they are encouraged, as manageable, to consider doing more than one of these experiences.

ELI experiences include several distinctive features:

- At the beginning of the experience, students develop learning objectives based on the common ELI reflection prompts.
- At the conclusion of the experience, students reflect on the outcomes of their stated learning objectives, and create a "career application" showcasing the "So what?" of their experience in a way that is contextualized for a targeted external audience (employer, graduate school, etc.). Sample career applications include a résumé, ePortfolio, personal website and LinkedIn profile.
- Students receive feedback from their ELI advisor on the establishment of and progress toward learning objectives/outcomes at least three times during their experience.

As a result of engaging in the ELI, students will be able to articulate the tangible impact of their experience on their academic learning, personal and professional development, and community contributions.

ELI Options

(Note: Certain types of experiences have been revised to include the components of ELI, thus meeting the ELI requirement. For others, particularly department-based research and practica, a corresponding proposal must be submitted to and approved by the respective ELI advisory team.)

Internships/Practica
- All credit-bearing internships that are supervised through the centralized Internship Program in the Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) have been updated to include the ELI components, thereby meeting the ELI requirement.
- Academic departments interested in offering practicum courses or individual student practicum experiences must apply to have the practicum count as ELI prior to the start of the term in which the practicum experience begins. If approved for ELI, department offers practica as ELI-embedded (all students enrolled). More information about ELI practica, including the faculty proposal form, appears at: https://www.messiah.edu/info/22286/eli_experiences/3118/eli_internshippracticum_options
- ELI advisors for this experience include CPDC staff for internships and faculty supervising ELI-approved practica.

Service Learning
- Beginning in 2016–2017, all officially-designated service learning courses will have been revised to incorporate ELI components, thereby meeting the ELI requirement.
- Faculty who wish to teach a service learning experience must complete the ELI Service Learning Proposal Form at https://www.messiah.edu/info/22286/eli_experiences/3117/eli_service_learning_options
- ELI advisors for this experience include faculty teaching ELI-approved service learning courses.

Off-Campus Programs
- All experiences through the Intercultural Office have been updated to include the ELI components, thereby meeting the ELI requirement when the student successfully completes the embedded ELI requirements.
- ELI advisors for this experience include Intercultural Office staff and faculty overseeing cross-cultural courses.
- More information about options in this area appear at https://www.messiah.edu/info/20698/off-campus_programs/3116/eli_off-campus_program_information

Leadership
- Approximately 160 leadership positions (but not all leadership positions) have incorporated the ELI components, and therefore meet the ELI requirement.
- Students can find the list of pre-approved positions at https://www.messiah.edu/info/20885/student_involvement_and_leadership_programs/3119/eli_leadership_options. Instructions for registering for an ELI leadership experience are included.
- ELI advisors for this experience include educators who supervise ELI-approved leadership positions.

Undergraduate Research
- Students must communicate to their supervising faculty member their interest in having their research project fulfill the ELI requirement.
- Faculty who desire to deliver a research experience to meet a student's ELI requirement must complete the ELI Approval Form at

https://www.messiah.edu/info/22286/eli_experiences/3258/eli_options_for_undergraduate_research prior to the start of the term in which the research experience begins.
- ELI advisors for this experience include faculty supervising ELI-approved research.
- Departments may offer optional ELI research experiences; contact chair to determine whether options exist in major.

Advising ELI

Experience	Embedded or Optional**	Minimum GPA	Registration Notes
Internship*	Embedded	Yes	No additional steps needed beyond course registration INTE 391 or 394.
Practicum*	Embedded	No	No additional steps needed beyond course registration for appropriate practica, which must have been previously approved by advisory team co-chairs.
Leadership*	Embedded	Yes - varies	Register for ELIR 020 in spring of year in which leadership complete. (Permission of advisory team co-chairs required.) Note: December grads register in fall.
Off-Campus Semester Long Programs*	Embedded	Yes	No additional steps needed beyond course registration
Cross-Cultural Courses*	Embedded	No	No additional steps needed beyond course registration
Research	Optional	Varies	Register for ELIR 040 in semester during which project will be completed, in addition to research course, if credit bearing. (Permission of advisory team co-chairs required.)
Service-Learning*	Embedded	No	No additional steps needed beyond course registration

*Requires advance application for experience by student. Please see www.messiah.edu/eli for more information about each particular experience type.
** All students participating in embedded ELI options will complete the necessary components. Students pursuing experiences which are optional in nature, must have the experiences approved by the relevant advisory team.

ELI advisory team co-chair contacts may be found here.