Experiential Learning Process: Students

What is experiential learning?
Experiential learning happens when you participate in learning experiences outside of the classroom that help you develop transferable skills. Examples of experiential learning opportunities include studying abroad, conducting undergraduate research, or participating in an on- or off-campus internship.

What are the benefits of experiential learning?
Many employers look for transferable skills like effective communication, the ability to work in a team, and problem-solving when they hire college graduates. Experiential learning provides you multiple opportunities to gain these key skills, which will make you more marketable. It also allows you to test out various fields of interest to help you feel more confident about your next steps when you graduate.

What can I do to fulfill my experiential learning requirements?

On-Campus Internships: Many departments and units across campus offer paid or unpaid internship positions for ULN students. All of these opportunities are posted on HireALonghorn.

Off-Campus Internships: You may work in a non-profit, business, government, education, and/or medical organization throughout the community. Check HireUTexas and HireALonghorn for current available opportunities. Visit your college career services office for additional support in finding opportunities.

Undergraduate Research: You can participate in faculty-led research or even work on your own independent research project with a faculty advisor at UT or another higher education institution. The first step is to find a faculty advisor. Consider faculty you have previously interacted with, or utilize Eureka, an online database of current research opportunities for undergraduate students. You also can visit the Office of Undergraduate Research for help.

Study Abroad: Explore the world by participating in one of the many different study abroad programs available, including a Maymester or faculty-led program. Visit a study abroad advisor to get started.

Domestic Study: You may be interested in a program outside of Austin, like UTLA or the Archer Fellowship Program. Contact domestic study programs directly for more information about application requirements and deadlines.

Experiential Degree Requirements: Are you required to do an internship, fieldwork, or practicum component for your major, minor, or certificate? You can count any of these opportunities both toward your degree requirements and as your experiential learning opportunity.

Student-Sought Opportunities: You are always welcome to find your own experiential learning opportunity. Contact the Experiential Learning team for approval.

Any Exceptions?
If you are on scholastic probation, experiencing non-academic concerns, or do not feel ready to complete an experiential learning opportunity, please contact the Experiential Learning team at ulninternships@austin.utexas.edu. You will participate in an alternate program designed to help you prepare for future experiential learning opportunities.
Timeline
If you are applying for on- or off-campus internships, prepare your materials and apply for opportunities through HireALonghorn or HireUTexas by March 29, 2019. Campus Partners will invite you to interviews, and final offers will be made between April 15 and April 30.

If you are seeking study abroad or domestic study, contact your program of interest to ensure your application is submitted by the required deadline. Know that many of these deadlines are well in advance of the actual domestic study or study abroad experience.

If you are participating in undergraduate research, you need to identify a faculty member who will serve as an advisor on your independent or collaborative research project prior to the 12th class day of the semester you plan to begin your research.

Next Steps
Access the experiential learning form on your Canvas site using the Experiential Learning button. You will be prompted to provide information about the type of opportunity you will be completing (e.g. undergraduate research, on- or off-campus internship, domestic study, or study abroad). This form needs to be completed with the following information by the 12th class day of each long semester:

On- or Off-Campus Internship: Information about your supervisor, whether the position is paid or unpaid, your title, and a brief description of your position.

Domestic Study or Study Abroad: The program title, duration, location, and semester you will be participating.

Undergraduate Research: The type of research you will be engaging in, your faculty advisor’s name, and their department.

Questions?
You are always welcome to meet with the Experiential Learning team to discuss any questions or concerns. Schedule an appointment using Symplicity or send us an email at ulninternships@austin.utexas.edu.