

College of Arts and Sciences

Experiential Learning Curriculum Certification

Courses certified as Experiential Learning (EL) will meet the EL curricular requirement of all UNL students following the 2022 Catalog Year forward. All offerings of the course must meet the guidelines for EL, regardless of section or instructor. Special Topics and Independent Study courses will not be approved due to their inherent variability.

In addition to a detailed syllabus and other supporting documents, departments should complete one of the following forms to seek the EL certification for a course:

- CAS8 – For permanent, group courses where all students are engaging in a similar experience led by the instructor of record.
- CAS9 – For internship or individualized research courses where each student establishes an individual learning agreement prior to obtaining permission to enroll.

Each EL-Certified course must be categorized as one of the following:

Case/Project Based Learning - Students' engagement and application of course materials to complex, ambiguous, real-world problems or scenarios make up a substantial portion of the course. Best practices include group discussion to ensure multi-faceted consideration of the problem or issue at hand, questions from instructors to move discussion to more complex levels, and often include community partners or client participation. Students articulate reasoning in support of decisions/solutions.

Creative Activity - Students create/produce and present their creative activities or products to audiences external to the course for opportunities to develop skills and talents in a real-world setting.

Community Engagement - Students and community partners collaborate to exchange knowledge and resources to the benefit of both.

Education Abroad - Students participate in educational experiences that foster global awareness, led by instructors, that take place in countries and territories outside the 50 United States.

Fieldwork - Students practice skills, conduct research, and/or explore academic content in an instructor-led setting outside of a classroom or lab, on location.

Internship/Co-op - Students integrate knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting (adapted from NACE, 2018). These experiences involve three entities: the student, a University representative (faculty or staff), and an onsite supervisor/employer.

Leadership - Students influence, motivate, and guide others toward the achievement of a goal through an elected or appointed position of leadership and serve for a minimum of one academic term.

Research - Students work under the guidance of an instructor to gain discipline-based research skills that may include identifying research questions; writing a grant proposal, practicing and/or developing methods to answer the questions; collecting, managing, and analyzing data; and/or disseminating the findings and implications.

Student Teaching/Education Practicum - Students engage in in-person teaching experiences with children/students in community placements or school settings.

Other - -- Students engage in experiential learning that does not fall under one of the above categories or that spans multiple categories.

College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Form CAS9

Independent Course – Internship or Research

Course Designator and Number:

Course name:

Name of person preparing the request:

Home Department:

Departments seeking EL designation for their internship and individualized research courses, should complete this form. Independent Study courses will not be approved due to their inherent variability. Courses intended to recognize progress on thesis will not be approved. Do not use this form for Established Group Courses (use CAS8).

Internship Courses

1. Learning Agreement (mark which you will use)

☐ CAS Internship Agreement between Student and Employer
☐ Department Internship Agreement (upload as supporting documentation)

2. Student and Employer Evaluations (mark which you will use)

☐ CAS Internship Evaluations
☐ Department Internship Evaluations (upload as supporting documentation)

Research Courses

1. Learning Agreement (mark which you will use)

☐ CAS Research Agreement between Student and Faculty Sponsor
☐ Department Research Agreement (upload as supporting documentation)

By submitting this request, departments agree to the following best practices and opportunities to collaborate with the College:

- The course will be offered every term, including summer, and students will be enrolled in the course at the same time they are engaged in the experience, not before or after.
- For internship courses, the instructor and employer will not be the same person.
- Instructors agree to require students submit the completed learning agreement before granting permission to enroll in the course.
- Instructors agree to share completed learning agreements of all enrolled students at census date of each term, by e-mailing them to cascareers@unl.edu.

Note: The College will offer CASC 395 (1-6 credits) and CASC 95 (0 credit) for internship, and CASC 98 (0 credit) for research, to any CAS student. Any CAS department may collaborate with the CAS Career Coaches on a special section for their discipline, requiring academic work designed by their faculty.