Facilitating Integration and Reflection of the Elon Experiences Toolkit

Learn more about the FIRE^2 Toolkit

Students: We encourage you to use these questions to guide your reflection on and discussion with others about which Elon Experiences are the best match for you. You also can use them to talk with peers about their plans for their future Experiential Learning Requirements (ELRs) and their experiences with ELRs they've already completed.

Want to write responses to one or more questions so that you can revisit your reflections later? Make a copy of this document (File → Make a Copy) to save an editable version to your Google Drive.

Questions to Consider Across Elon Experiences

Pre-Experience

- What Elon Experience(s) do you think you'd like to pursue and why?
- How might the Elon Experience(s) support your learning and career interests?
- How will the Elon Experiences help you in your Elon path and in your life path?
- In what ways do the Elon Experiences speak to you intellectually?
- What are your personal and educational expectations and goals for your Elon Experiences?

During the Experience

- How will the Elon Experiences help you in your Elon path and in your life path?
- How does your Elon Experience shape what you do, who you interact with, and how you view your community(s)?
- How might this experience influence your curricular choices (classes, major, minor, etc.)?

- How does the Elon Experiences intersect with your other (curricular, co-curricular, extra-curricular) experiences?
- How might this experience deepen your understanding of yourself and your direction?
- What challenges have you encountered during your Elon Experience and what have you learned from those challenges?

Post-Experience

- How does your Elon Experience(s) shape what you do, who you interact with, and how you view your community(s)?
- How did your Elon Experience(s) challenge you to learn and grow?
- How might your Elon Experience(s) inform your personal and professional life beyond Elon?
- How might this experience inform your practices beyond Elon?
- How might your Elon Experience(s) influence your curricular choices and career interests? (classes, major, minor, etc.)
- How does your Elon Experience(s) connect with your personal and educational expectations and goals?
- How did your Elon Experience compare to your pre-experience expectations for it?
- If you were asked to provide a narrative of your Elon education, how would you connect your Elon Experience(s) to this story?

Global Engagement Questions

Pre-Experience

- What are your goals (academic, personal, or professional) for your study abroad experience? What experiences do you hope to have, and what skills do you hope to develop, during your study abroad?
- Why are you picking the location where you want to study away?
- What cultural differences do you anticipate encountering during your study abroad experience?

- How do you think you will be challenged – both personally and academically – by a study abroad experience? How might you prepare yourself for those challenges?

During the Experience

- How does this study abroad experience relate to what you have learned elsewhere (e.g., in courses in your major, in courses you took for the Core Curriculum, at other internships, etc.)?
- What cultural differences have you encountered during your study abroad experience?
- What has your study abroad experience so far pointed out to you about your own attitudes, beliefs, and values?
- What are you finding challenging about your study abroad experience, and what strategies have you tried to make sense of or navigate those challenges?

Post-Experience

- What did you learn – about yourself, your host country, or your field of study – during your study abroad?
- What surprised you about your study abroad experience?
- What cultural differences did you encounter during your study abroad experience, and what did those differences help you understand about your own attitudes, beliefs, and values?
- What skills did you develop or strengthen as a result of your study abroad experience?
- What will you do in the future to build on your study abroad experience?

Internship Questions

Pre-Experience

- As you look ahead to your internship, how do you understand your role and responsibilities at the internship site?

- What are your goals for your internship experience? What skills do you hope to develop, or what experiences do you hope to gain, during your internship?
- How might you collaborate with your internship site supervisor and your faculty mentor to work towards achieving those personal or professional goals (e.g., new skills or experiences)?
- How will you self-assess your progress towards meeting your personal or professional goals?

During the Experience

- How does the internship connect to your own values and goals?
- How does this internship experience relate to what you have learned elsewhere (e.g., in courses in your major, in courses you took for the Core Curriculum, at other internships, etc.)?
- What challenges have you encountered at your internship site, and what strategies have you tried using to navigate those challenges?
- How does your internship experience align with or challenge your academic knowledge?
- How successful have you been so far at meeting your internship responsibilities, and what strategies have contributed to your success?
- What have you learned so far at your internship site that will inform your internship work in the weeks to come?

Post Experience

- What did you learn – about yourself or your field of study – during your internship experience?
- In what ways were you successful at your internship site, and what strategies or practices contributed to your success?
- In what ways were you challenged by your internship experience?
- Based on your internship experience, what else would you like to learn to advance in your professional field or related areas?

Leadership Questions

Pre-Experience

- What is it about leadership at Elon that piques your interest?
- What personal values are important to you?
- In what ways might participating in leadership at Elon shape those values?
- What is the connection between your values and your identity?
- How does your sense-of-self influence and inform your interactions with others at Elon?
- How are the actions and responsibilities of an individual related to the actions and responsibilities of a group? How might they differ?

During the Experience

- Has participating in leadership at Elon helped you to understand and operationalize your personal values in a different way?
- As your personal values develop, what impact have they had on the various aspects of your identity as a leader (given & chosen)?
- How has participating in leadership influenced and informed your interactions with others at Elon?
- How have your interactions with others at Elon influenced and informed your understanding of leadership?
- How has your sense of responsibility informed your actions and interactions?

Post-Experience

- How did your leadership experience inform your interactions with the community?
- How do you see your leadership experiences informing your interactions with the community moving forward?
- How do the skills and abilities that stemmed from your leadership experience deepen your understanding of your coursework, other Elon experiences, and career interests? How do these interactions show up in your day-to-day life?
- How did your leadership experience help you deepen your understanding of society and communities?

Service-Learning/Community-Engaged Learning Questions

Pre-Experience

- What do you know about your potential service-learning community partner, and what do you hope to learn about this community partner and/or the people the organization serves?
- What assumptions are you making about your potential service-learning community partner and the people the organization serves?
- What assumptions might your service community partner and the people the organization serves make about you?
- What are your goals for your service-learning experience? What skills do you hope to develop, or what experiences do you hope to gain, during your service-learning?

During the Experience

- How does your service-learning experience at your community partner relate to what you are learning in your service-learning class? How does it relate to what you have learned elsewhere (in other courses, from other service experiences, etc.)?
- What experiences working your service-learning community partner have surprised you, and why?
- How has your experience compared to the assumptions you held about your community partner before starting your service-learning?
- What coursework or other experiences have you done that are relevant to your service-learning experience?
- What has your service-learning experience so far helped you understand about your own values and biases?
- How successful have you been so far at meeting your responsibilities to your community partner, and what strategies have contributed to your success?
- What have you learned so far that will inform your continuing work with your community partner?

Post-Experience

- What did you learn – about yourself or your field of study – during your service-learning experience?
- What surprised you about your service-learning experience?
- How did your experience compare to the assumptions you held about your community partner before starting your service-learning?
- In what ways were you successful at meeting your commitments to your community partner, and what strategies or practices contributed to your success?
- In what ways were you challenged by your service-learning experience?
- Based on your service-learning experience, what else would you like to learn to advance in your professional field or related areas? What will you do in the future to build on this service-learning experience?

Undergraduate Research Questions

Pre-Experience

- What would you like to gain by pursuing a research experience?
- How have your courses interested you and led you to consider a research experience?
- How do you think a research experience would add to your time at Elon and time after Elon?
- What preconceptions do you have about undergraduate research?
- What is your major and do you think you'd like to pursue research in that major?
- What topics in your major interest you?
- What characteristics and qualities are important to you in identifying a faculty mentor?
- Do you have a faculty mentor in mind?
- Have you identified questions related to UR that you would like to ask of the faculty in your department?

During the Experience

- How has your research experience deepened your interest in your major?
- How has your research experience informed your course selections and career interests?
- How have your courses and career interests informed your research experience?
- How has your research experience connected you with others who have challenged you to learn and grow?
- Have you spoken to other students about the benefits of undertaking a research project?
- What have you learned about yourself and what skills have you developed as a result of undertaking a research project?
- How will you talk about the value of your research experience when you go on job/grad school interviews?
- What university resources have been particularly supportive of your research journey and why?

Post-Experience

- How was your research experience during your time at Elon both beneficial and valuable?
- As you look back on your research experience, what were the prominent challenges you faced and how did you overcome these challenges?
- What qualities and skills were you able to develop as a result of undertaking a research project and how do you see yourself using these skills in the future?