

Experiential Learning

how to create opportunities for practicing ISLOs outside the classroom



Introduction

Contributions to student learning come from multiple touch points and opportunities for skill development. The co-curricular experience is one component of a complex process of acquiring knowledge that introduces students to myriad occasions to practice and learn. This document intends to introduce faculty to resources for identifying appropriate activities that will support classroom learning.



Making Meaningful Connections

Below are five suggestions for including experiential learning opportunities in your syllabus and connecting them to course content. In each example, it is recommended that faculty:

- ◆ introduce the co-curricular activity to the students by providing them with a context for how the activity supports course goals for student learning that are also supported by course materials in the curriculum, in order to establish the relevancy of the activity,
- ◆ follow student engagement in the co-curricular activity with learning activities that help students to strengthen the connection between what they have learned outside the classroom and the course student learning outcomes [SLOs] supported by the curriculum. Such activities can include classroom discussion, reflection prompts, alternative assignments,
- ◆ As possible, provide students with readings/supplemental materials that will further help them to place the activity in a larger context and make the connection to course learning goals. Readings/materials can come from a variety of media sources.

1. Visit the on-line calendar (<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentactivities/faculty.asp>) or connect with Co-Curricular Partners when developing your syllabus. Select an event or program that supports an ISLO your students need to develop and correlates with the content of your course. Assign attendance as a required or supplemental experience.
2. Assign participation in a set number of activities that support an ISLO your students need to develop. Direct students to the on-line calendar and encourage them to select programs of their choosing at times convenient for them.
3. Encourage a degree of involvement in an academic club or have students design their own student organization related to the course as an optional homework assignment.
4. Develop and implement an experiential opportunity for your students that is department or course specific and gives them hands-on experience to practice an ISLO in a tangible and meaningful way. Collaborate with co-curricular partners as needed to assist with the design and delivery.
5. Apply for architectural assistance with the design and delivery of a unique engagement opportunity. Limited funding and consultation available for first-timers, programs that cross disciplines, and innovative transformative experiences. Work directly with an Engagement Specialist in the planning, execution, and assessment of your idea.



Co-Curricular Partners

Academic, Career & Transfer Advising

978-656-3212

Academic Support Centers

781-280-3724

Community Engagement/Service

978-656-3159

Center for Health & Wellness

781-280-3785

International Student Office

978-656-3258

Leadership & Student Activities

781-280-3762

Multicultural Center

978-656-3267

Student Support Services

781-280-3525

www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentactivities/faculty.asp