

Experiential Learning (EL) Course Options Guidelines for Students

The university offers a wide array of EL courses that focus on both the theoretical and the experiential aspects of the course topic and enable students to develop skills, knowledge, and values from direct experiences. Starting in fall 2009, students who are interested in taking an EL course can choose between two options:

1. **Six-credit EL course:** Such courses provide a multi-layered experience aiming to expose students to a broad perspective on specific issues related to their fields of interest and to enable them to develop and strengthen their academic and experiential skills.
2. **Two-credit EL 94a practicum:** the practicum is optional for students and requires students to register for EL 94a in conjunction with the associated four-credit base course. Faculty design a practicum course for a small group of students interested in hands-on experiences related to the topics of the base course.

Six-credit EL courses

Six-credit EL courses will be listed on the Schedule of Classes. Students should enroll in these classes following the same registration procedures as any other regularly scheduled class.

Two-credit EL 94a practicum

The two-credit EL 94a enables students to receive credit for extra work that they will be responsible for over and above the course work requirements of the four-credit base class.

The combination of the base course and the EL 94a should contain the following four elements:

1. Direct /hands-on experiences that engage students intellectually, creatively, emotionally, socially or physically and enable them to experience the theories they learn and discuss in the base class
2. Unknown outcomes so students learn from natural consequences, mistakes, and successes
3. Opportunities for students to take initiative, make decisions, and be accountable for the results
4. Structured assignments and processes that enable students to reflect on their direct experiences critically and to connect between theory and practice.

In order to develop their reflective skills and to enable faculty to assess their progress, students in EL 94a are required to present their EL experiences in oral and/or written form throughout and/or at the end of the semester. Students' presentations/papers should focus on the learning process related to their direct experiences and the connection between these experiences and the theories that were learned in class.

While the base course focuses on theoretical content, the EL Practicum focuses on related hands-on experiences. Students who enroll in the base course will not be required to enroll in the EL practicum so faculty are able to design a practicum course for a small group of students interested in hands-on experiences related to the theoretical course topics.

EL practicums should be structured as a combination of hands-on projects and additional class meetings. Students in EL practicums are required to invest at least three hours a week in experiences directly related to the practicum, to attend all class meetings, and to present their EL experiences in oral and/or written form.

Expected Components of 94a EL Practicum

Student who enroll in an EL 94a:

1. are required to invest between three to five hours per week in experiences, assignments, and/or group meetings directly related to the practicum
2. should attend all group meetings
3. should present their EL experiences and reflections in an oral and/or written form throughout and/or at the end of the semester. Students must also complete any other readings and written assignments throughout the semester considered appropriate by the faculty instructor.

Evaluation and Grading

The letter grade will be determined by a combination of the following elements:

1. Participation in hands-on activities
2. Reflective papers/journals/reports
3. Final presentation

Total Credit Limit

There is no limit on the total number of practicums that may count toward the 128 credits required for graduation. Individual academic departments and programs may decide whether or not to count practicum courses toward major or minor requirements.

Enrollment Procedures

Enrollment in an EL practicum course is accomplished through an EL 94a ADD form. This form needs to be completed with the faculty instructor. The 94a ADD form should describe:

1. The EL project (goals, ways to achieve goals, key indicators of success)
2. Training and supervision to be received
3. Reflection assignments and/or oral presentations
4. The base course must be listed on the EL 94a form and will appear on the student transcript as a notation to the EL 94a course.
5. Students may not enroll in EL 94a as a stand alone course; it must be in addition to a base course. *Should a student drop/withdraw from the base class, the enrollment in the associated EL 94a will automatically be dropped.*

A student must register in person at the Office of the University Registrar (Kutz 121) by submitting the completed EL 94a registration form on or before the add deadline at the start of the semester. The signatures of the student and faculty instructor on an EL 94a form indicates that both have read and understood the guidelines in this document, established by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) in 2008-2009.