

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

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What are the common elements of effective faculty-supported Experiential Learning?

1. A meaningful experiential learning experience integrated into a student's collegiate education
2. An academic component that encourages the student to integrate practical experience with his or her theoretical knowledge developed in the classroom. This is most often realized in the form of journals, job-related projects, oral presentation, final reports, or other reflective assignment(s)
3. A supportive Site Supervisor who embraces the role of workplace mentor and takes responsibility for providing day-to-day guidance as appropriate for the student, confirming said responsibility with Faculty Sponsor in advance
4. An active and engaged Faculty Sponsor to advise student before, during and after the internship experience. In cases of undergraduate research the Faculty Sponsor also serves as Site Supervisor
5. Student-developed learning objectives (approved by Faculty Sponsor and Site Supervisor) that are consistent with both Pacific's goal of fostering practice-ready professionals and student interests and capabilities. These will be used to ensure a meaningful learning experience and to assess learning outcomes
6. Adequate on-site or research experience to justify awarding academic credit (Pacific requires a minimum of 40 hours workplace experience to qualify for one unit academic credit)
7. Appropriate advance preparation, both academically and professionally, so that student and work site are each prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities presented and to maximize the benefits to both parties. This is normally done by a unit-specific pre-internship class, faculty supervised research preparation and/or University-sponsored orientation.

Active and engaged faculty sponsorship incorporates:

1. Advance meetings with candidates to advise and assess range of potential opportunities
2. Realistic assessment of candidate's readiness for a meaningful internship, research opportunities or other experiential learning
3. In cases of undergraduate research, Faculty Sponsor also serves as Site Supervisor
4. Assistance in editing of student's learning objectives, initial contact with work place supervisor to confirm his/her willingness to serve as workplace mentor and assist with assessment of student progress during internship, review and sign off of Pacific internship documentation
5. Internship/ELO opportunity on-site visit during term (if feasible)
6. Regular, ongoing contact with student during internship term
7. Evaluation of academic work, including feedback for student assignments during the internship
8. Meet with student following the internship to provide de-briefing and final oral review
9. Determine and post final grade for completed internships. Many Pacific Internships are offered on a Pass/No Credit basis.