

APPLIED STUDY & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TERM

Faculty Barbara Jensen, William Jordan, Elaine Rundle-Schwark

Associated Faculty Leonard Branson, Sharon Chanley, Tim Miller

Adjunct Faculty Deborah Cimarossa, Holly McCracken

Contact: Information about applied study is available at (217) 206-6640. Information can also be requested at ast@uis.edu.

The applied study and experiential learning term (AST) is central to UIS' public affairs emphasis within the framework of a liberal arts curriculum and stresses practical experience, professional development, and experiential learning. The AST fulfills this role by providing an academically sponsored learning experience that gives all UIS degree seeking undergraduate students an opportunity to learn from the community – about its everyday tasks, its professional life, its problems, and its unmet needs.

The AST process emphasizes self-directed learning that provides opportunities for career exploration, integration of academic studies with practical experience, determination of additional learning needs, cultivation of independent learning skills, and development of increased awareness of community, diversity, and public affairs.

The campus and AST faculty recognize the diversity of backgrounds and academic and career needs of students. A variety of curricular options are described more fully in the AST course descriptions. Some programs (i.e., social work and clinical laboratory science) have an experiential component integrated into the academic curriculum of the program.

REQUIREMENTS

UIS provides an opportunity for degree seeking undergraduates at UIS to take 2 to 12 semester hours of applied study. Only 8 semester hours of applied study may be used to satisfy campus requirements. An additional 4 semester hours may be taken for elective credit with the adviser's permission. The AST may be taken after admission to an academic major at UIS, selection of a major adviser in the academic discipline, and completion of three core courses in the academic major at UIS. Some programs have additional prerequisites for applied study terms. Scheduling is flexible

and a variety of options are available to meet individual student needs.

During their first semesters of enrollment, students should make an appointment with their program advisers and an AST faculty member to discuss plans for the integration of academic studies and experiential learning.

Early in the semester preceding enrollment in the AST, students should arrange all details of placement with the AST faculty. Registration can be completed only with the permission of the program adviser and an AST faculty member.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Undergraduate and graduate students with extensive paid work, volunteer service, and other non-classroom learning experiences may earn credit in appropriate academic areas. Enrollment in AST 401 or AST 501 Assessment of Experiential Learning is strongly recommended for students preparing prior learning



