

EXS-L

Learning from the past;
Experiencing the present;
Leading toward the future.

EXPERIENTIAL AND SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS

Experiential learning has been described as what happens when students are given the chance to acquire and apply knowledge, skills and feelings in an immediate and relevant setting. UIS strongly supports the idea of a direct encounter with the phenomena being studied. Faculty and staff establish impressive connections locally and around the world to make sure that our students bring theory into the field. At UIS, you'll explore your major in the real world and reach out to others through service. The payoff? You're ready to hit the ground running, backed by an impressive portfolio of achievement.

Advantage UIS: Applied Study Term

Applied Study Term (AST) is an individualized field experience that lets undergraduates earn credit while test driving their majors. You will expand your knowledge and determine what additional learning you may need to excel in your field. Or you'll find out that the career isn't for you after all. There are hundreds of ASTs to choose from, with help from your advisor. If you have something specific in mind, we'll work with you to make it happen.



Advantage UIS: Service-Learning



Service-Learning combines community service with structured learning that encourages self-reflection and self-discovery. Community service opportunities include local sites, as well as, immersion opportunities at domestic and international sites.

Advantage UIS: Credit for Prior Learning

Sometimes our students come to us having already expanded their worlds through careers, the military, volunteerism or personal interests. We recognize the value of life experience. This program allows you to develop a portfolio that details college-level learning in your past. We'll assess your significant accomplishments and award academic credit where appropriate.



Proper credit.

Wisdom may be its own reward but you'll also earn academic credit for your applied study term and service-learning activities. In addition, many of the internships arranged by UIS involve a salary or monthly stipend from the employer.

Who you know.

The people you meet through internships and service-learning may be among the most valuable connections you ever make. In fact, a full one-third of our students in Applied Study Term are offered full and part-time jobs by their employers long before they ever graduate. Doesn't surprise us.



Where do our students go?

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
US Embassy Belize Central America
Merk Science Research Internship
American Lung Association
Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago
State Farm Insurance
Levi, Ray & Shoup
Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
Caterpillar
Archer Daniels Midland
Springfield Police Department
Illinois State Police Terrorism Task Force
Paper-making Science Internship
Sangamon County Adult Probation
Illinois Attorney General's Office
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
US Hispanic Leadership Program
Sen. Dick Durbin Congressional Ofc.

The three EXS-L programs – Applied Study Term, Credit for Prior Learning, and Service-Learning – demonstrate UIS’ commitment to the principle that learning is active and can be acquired in a variety of settings. The programs are central to UIS’ public affairs mission and stress practical experience, professional development, and the value of self-directed learning. These programs give degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to learn from the community about careers, service, professional life, and unmet needs.

Elaine Rundle-Schwark

Director of Experiential & Service-Learning Programs, and Director of Credit for Prior Learning

Kathy Guthrie Coordinator of Service-Learning

Janette Kirkham Coordinator of Placement Development

Applied Study Term (AST)

This program is for undergraduate students. It provides you with a unique opportunity to apply theory, expand knowledge, determine additional learning needs, explore careers, and develop a public awareness and an appreciation of diversity. Approved and supervised by university faculty, your Applied Study Term can take the format of internships, projects, travel or study abroad.

Degree-seeking undergraduates can apply AST credit hours to fulfill part of the UIS Requirement of 12 semester hours from among public affairs colloquia PAC, liberal studies colloquia LSC, and applied study term AST. Two to eight semester hours of AST may be taken to meet the UIS Requirement or ECCE with your academic advisor's permission.

The program maintains an AST Placement Directory, which allows you to access specific contact information for many area businesses and agencies seeking undergraduate interns.

Completing an AST is an excellent addition to your resume. Close discussion between you and your academic advisor will help to ensure that the AST will fulfill your educational needs and career explorations. AST Seminars can also be taken online.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)

Students interested in pursuing credit through CPL should be admitted to UIS, have declared a major, and have junior standing/completed 60 semester hours of credit. They should have completed 12 hours in their major. It is also beneficial for the student to have an area of study in mind and have substantial past experiences that can translate into college-level learning. UIS offers a course through the Experiential and Service-Learning Program, AST 305/501 Prior Learning Portfolio Development, that assists students in developing a portfolio of college-level learning. For undergraduate students, the four credit hours earned in AST 305 count toward the University Requirement.

Service-Learning

Service-Learning is a teaching method that enriches learning by engaging you in meaningful service to your community. Service tasks are combined with structured opportunities so students link the tasks to self-reflection, the acquisition of knowledge, and the comprehension of values. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service to non-profit agencies in order to prepare for



Experiential & Service-Learning Programs staff
Brookens Library, fourth floor

practical community-based problem solving. It offers an opportunity to explore the connections of academic theory and the practical needs of the community while expanding overall knowledge of community-based problems. Undergraduate students earn credit toward their degree through service-learning opportunities under two ECCE categories: Engagement and Elective.

Visit our websites for more information on

- Prerequisites
- Eligibility
- AST employers and internships
- Service-Learning opportunities
- CPL portfolio development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Experiential and Service-Learning Programs
(217) 206-6640

Websites

- uis.edu/exsl
- uis.edu/appliedstudy
- uis.edu/servicelearning
- uis.edu/cpl

Office of Admissions
(217) 206-4847

Or Toll free at (888) 977-4847
admissions@uis.edu
uis.edu/admissions

IMPORTANT!—Information effective fall 2009. Subject to change without notice. The information is not to be considered final, nor does it constitute a contract between the student and UIS. See uis.edu/uiscatalog for current program requirements.