



## Experiential Learning Process: Students

### What is experiential learning?

Experiential learning happens when you participate in learning experiences outside of the classroom that help you develop transferable skills. Examples of experiential learning opportunities include studying abroad, conducting undergraduate research, or participating in an on- or off-campus internship.

### What are the benefits of experiential learning?

Many employers look for transferable skills like effective communication, the ability to work in a team, and problem-solving when they hire college graduates. Experiential learning provides you multiple opportunities to gain these key skills, which will make you more marketable. It also allows you to test out various fields of interest to help you feel more confident about your next steps when you graduate.

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### What can I do to fulfill my experiential learning requirements?

**On-Campus Internships:** Many departments and units across campus offer paid or unpaid internship positions for ULN students. All of these opportunities are posted on [HireUTexas](#). Enter the search term "ULN EL" to see these specific opportunities. Make sure to share your status as a ULN student on your resume and/or cover letter.

**Off-Campus Internships:** You may work in a non-profit, business, government, education, and/or medical organization throughout the community. Check [HireUTexas Powered by Handshake](#) for current available opportunities. Visit your [college career services office](#) for additional support in finding opportunities.

**Undergraduate Research:** You can participate in faculty-led research or even work on your own independent research project with a faculty advisor at UT or another higher education institution. The first step is to find a faculty advisor. Consider faculty you have previously interacted with, or utilize [Eureka](#), an online database of current research opportunities for undergraduate students. You also can visit the [Office of Undergraduate Research](#) for help.

### What are the experiential learning requirements?

During their second, third, and fourth years at UT, ULN students participate in experiential learning opportunities. Experiential learning typically takes place during the fall and spring semesters and usually lasts one academic year. If you complete an experience of at least 120 hours over the summer, you may apply that experience to one future semester.

Experiential learning opportunities can be paid or unpaid. If you are completing an unpaid opportunity, you will complete 10 hours per week during the semester. For paid opportunities, you must work at least 10 hours per week, but we encourage you to not work more than 20 hours per week if you are taking a full course load.



**Study Abroad:** Explore the world by participating in one of the many different study abroad programs available, including a Maymester or faculty-led program. Visit a [study abroad advisor](#) to get started.

**Domestic Study:** You may be interested in a program outside of Austin, like [UTLA](#) or the [Archer Fellowship Program](#). Contact domestic study programs directly for more information about application requirements and deadlines.

**Entrepreneurship:** Interested in starting your own business? Find a mentor to meet with you at least monthly to help you as you build your business. Contact your coordinator if you need help finding a mentor.

**Organization Leadership Position:** You may count leadership roles you hold in clubs or organizations related to your career goals for the requirement.

**Experiential Degree Requirements:** Are you required to do an internship, fieldwork, or practicum component for your major, minor, or certificate? You can count any of these opportunities both toward your degree requirements and as your experiential learning opportunity.



**Work-Study or Part-Time Positions:** You may work in paid positions that directly relate to your future personal and professional goals. If you are unsure, speak with your coordinator to discuss the opportunity you are considering.

### Timeline

If you are applying for on- or off-campus internships, prepare your materials and apply for opportunities through [HireUTexas](#) by March 13, 2021. Plan to attend the Experiential Learning Expo on March 10, 2021. The Expo is a chance for you to discuss potential experiential learning opportunities with on- and off-campus partners for the Summer 2021 or Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 semesters. ULN Partners will invite you to interviews, and final offers will be made between April 5, 2021, and April 16, 2021.

If you are seeking study abroad or domestic study, contact your program of interest to ensure your application is submitted by the required deadline. Know that many of these deadlines are well in advance of the actual domestic study or study abroad experience.

If you are participating in undergraduate research, you need to identify a faculty member who will serve as an advisor on your independent or collaborative research project prior to the 12th class day of the semester you plan to begin your research.

### Next Steps

Access the [experiential learning form](#) the experiential learning guide on the ULN website. You will be prompted to provide information about the type of opportunity you will be completing. See the experiential learning website for a guide on how to complete the form. **The form needs to be completed by the 1st class day of each long semester.**

### Any Exceptions?

You always have the option to complete an alternative experiential learning plan with your coordinator. This program is designed to help you prepare for future experiential learning opportunities. Contact your coordinator to discuss this option.

### Questions?

You are always welcome to meet with your coordinator to discuss any questions or concerns. Visit your canvas page for their appointment scheduling link. You can also send us an email to [ulninternships@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ulninternships@austin.utexas.edu).