

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

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Approved Course Listing for  
the College of Social Science

As of April 2025



College of Social Science  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Experiential Learning Options

The requirement may be met by completing a 3 or 4-credit experiential learning course, approved by the College of Social Science Committee on Curriculum and Academic Policy or its designee. A list of approved courses will be maintained by the College of Social Science. The College of Social Science considers the application of the knowledge, theories, and skills learned in the classroom to real-world situations to be a cornerstone of undergraduate education. The experiential learning requirement of the College is designed to ensure that each undergraduate major has the opportunity to enhance problem-solving and integrative reasoning skills through practice outside of the traditional classroom learning environment. Study abroad, study away, internships, service learning, honors theses, and undergraduate research will count toward the requirement.

Questions about the requirement please contact:

- College of Social Science Office of Experiential Learning – 221 Berkey Hall, 517-432-4541
- College of Social Science Academic Advisors

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## Internship

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Internships meet the experiential learning requirement provided students complete an approved internship course as part of the experience.

**Students must receive a minimum 2.0 or P to meet the College's experiential learning requirement.**

*For more information:* <http://socialscience.msu.edu/students/experiential-learning/credit-your-internship/>

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## Service Learning & Civic Engagement

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Service learning is the process by which students engage in community-based projects while simultaneously being challenged in the classroom to prepare them to be agents of social change during their academic study and afterwards.

**Students must receive a minimum 2.0 or P to meet the College's experiential learning requirement.**

*For more information:* <http://socialscience.msu.edu/students/experiential-learning/service-learning-and-civic-engagement/>

## Study Away

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Study Away Programs include courses and internships at locations within the United States. A Study Away (offered by the College of Social Science, another MSU College, or another university, if approved for transfer credit by MSU) meets the experiential learning requirement, subject to the following conditions: **students must complete the program and achieve a minimum 2.0 or P in at least one of the program's 3-credit courses.**

For more information: <http://www.socialscience.msu.edu/students/experiential-learning/study-away/>

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## Study Abroad

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Study Abroad Programs (offered by the College of Social Science, another MSU College, or another university, if approved for transfer credit by MSU) meet the experiential learning requirement, subject to the following conditions: **students must complete the program and achieve a minimum 2.0 or P in at least one of the program's 3-credit courses.**

For more information: <http://www.socialscience.msu.edu/students/experiential-learning/study-abroad/>  
<https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/>

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## Honors Thesis

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Approved honors thesis courses that meet a student's major requirements (including for final grade) for thesis for the Honors College fulfills the experiential learning requirement.

For more information: <https://honorscollege.msu.edu/programs/research-alternatives.html>

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## Department Courses

(Minimum 3-credit course)

These are courses offered by schools/departments that are approved to fulfill the experiential learning requirement. Ordinarily, these are upper-level courses for which previous course work has prepared students to carry out high-level, independent research.

For courses to be approved, all of the following must apply:

- at least 50% of students' effort is directed toward and final grade is based on self-directed research outside the traditional classroom or in a lab.
- students' effort must result in a significant final project.
- the experiential work must enable students to engage in independent application of the knowledge, theories, and skills learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

**Students must receive a minimum 2.0 or P to meet the College's experiential learning requirement.**

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## For-Credit Research Experiences with a Faculty Member

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Undergraduate research experiences with MSU faculty members that take place as part of a course or independent study meet the experiential learning requirement. These courses

- help the students develop advanced research skills.
- involve a faculty member as a mentor.
- have a set of defined learning goals.
- give students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the learning goals in a final product. Normally, that product takes the form of a presentation at UURAF or in a professional setting and/or is a substantial final paper produced by or co-authored with the student.

Normally, these courses require at least 135 hours of work over a semester (an average of 9 hours of work per week). **Students must receive a minimum 2.0 or P to meet the College's experiential learning requirement.**

## Courses Approved to Meet the Experiential Learning Requirement

| Agribusiness Management – ABM |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| ABM 493                       | Professional Internship in Agribusiness Management | Supervised professional experience in agribusiness management.   |
| Arts and Letters – AL         |  |  |
| AL 493A                       | Arts and Letters Internship                        | Supervised preprofessional field experience in the arts and humanities.  |
| AL 493B                       | Arts and Letters International Internship          | Supervised preprofessional international field experience in the arts and humanities.  |
| Anthropology – ANP            |  |  |
| ANP 412                       | Method and Practice in Digital Heritage            | The application of digital methods and computational approaches to heritage questions, data, materials, collections.   |
| ANP 429                       | Ethnographic Field Methods                         | Field research in cultural anthropology. Research design, participant observation, relationship of techniques to methods, and ethics.  |
| ANP 441                       | Osteology and Forensic Anthropology                | Human bone and skeletal biology and analysis. Methods of forensic anthropology. Analysis of skeletal remains, forensic pathology, and forensic archaeology.                                |
| ANP 463                       | Laboratory Methods in Archaeology                  | Preparation and preservation of archaeological data. Conservation, cleaning, cataloguing, and classification. Analysis of lithics, ceramics, faunal and floral remains, metals, and glass. |
| ANP 464                       | Field Methods in Archaeology                       | Field research. Survey, excavation, mapping, data recording, and field laboratory procedures.  |

|         |                                   |   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---|
| ANP 465 | Field Methods in Digital Heritage | Applied experience in the tools and techniques required to creatively apply digital technology to heritage materials and questions. |
| ANP 476 | Internship in Anthropology        | Internship in anthropology.   |

### Agriculture and Natural Resources – ANR

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|---------|---|---|
| ANR 491 | Natural Resources, Conservation, and Environmental Sustainability in Michigan | Approval for Glassen Scholars section only. Not open to freshmen or sophomores. |
|---------|---|---|

### Animal Science – ANS

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| ANS 493 | Professional Internship in Animal Science | Supervised professional experience in the animal industry. |
|---------|---|--|

### Chicano/Latino Studies – CLS

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|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| CLS 493 | Internship in Chicano/Latino Studies | Application of course work in Chicano/Latino studies through work experience in public, private, or nonprofit agency or organization in the U.S. whose goals and activities address Chicano/Latino issues. |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|

### Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering – CMSE

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|----------|-----------------------|--|
| CMSE 495 | Data Science Capstone | The data science capstone course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to put together what they have learned across multiple courses to develop a final project that demonstrates their ability to work in a team on real-world problems. |
|----------|-----------------------|--|



### Computer Science & Engineering – CSE

CSE 482

Big Data Analysis

Principles and techniques for large-scale data analysis and applications.

### Community Sustainability – CSUS

CSUS 418

Community Sustainability Study Abroad

Study and travel experience emphasizing contemporary problems in sustainability in world, national, and local communities.

### Criminal Justice – CJ

CJ 493

Undergraduate Research in Criminal Justice

Faculty-guided undergraduate research in criminal justice.

CJ 494

Criminal Justice Practicum

Observation, participation, and study in selected criminal justice agencies.

### Economics – EC

EC 332

Monetary Policy Analysis for Fed Challenge

U.S. economy through the lens of the U.S. Central Bank. Federal Reserve and monetary policy. Practice presentations in preparation for the Chicago Fed Challenge. Collect and analyze macroeconomic and financial data.

EC 422

Advanced Data Analysis in Economics

Capstone course for economics majors. Reading and discussion concerning selected economics topics. Preparation and presentation of student research project.

EC 499

Senior Seminar for Economics Majors (W)

Capstone course for economics majors. Reading and discussion concerning selected economics topics. Preparation and presentation of student research project.



## Engineering – EGR

|         |                                      |  |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| EGR 391 | Engineering Experiential Education I | Supporting students' first internship through assessment and reflection to enhance career understanding.   |
| EGR 393 | Engineering Cooperative Education    | Pre-professional educational employment experiences in industry and government related to student's major. Educational employment assignment approved by College of Engineering. |

## Food Industry Management – FIM

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|---------|---|--|
| FIM 493 | Professional Internship in Food Industry Management | Open to undergraduate students in the Food Industry Management major. Approval of department; application required. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for any or all of these courses: ABM 493, AEE 493, ANR 493, ANS 493, CMP 493, CSS 493, CSUS 493, EEP 493, FIM 493, FOR 493, FSC 493, FW 493, HRT 493, PDC 493, PKG 493, PLP 493 |
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## Geography – GEO

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|---------|-------------------------------------|--|
| GEO 286 | Undergraduate Research in Geography | Supervised research on a topic or topics determined by the instructor. Applications of geographic tools and theory.      |
| GEO 480 | Senior Seminar                      | History, philosophy, and methodology of the geographic discipline as it has evolved within academic and social contexts. |
| GEO 495 | Field Study                         | Supervised field study in geography.   |
| GEO 498 | Internship in Geography             | Individual experience in geography in an approved organization.  |

| History – HST |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| HST 475       | History of the Book                    | History of the book from medieval manuscripts to modern forms. Publishing, illustration, censorship and print culture. |
| HST 480       | Seminar in American History (W)        | Exploration of particular topics in cultural, intellectual, or political history, seventeenth century to the present.  |
| HST 481       | Seminar in Ancient History (W)         | A specific problem or theme in the history of Greece and Rome.   |
| HST 482       | Seminar in Medieval History (W)        | A specific problem or theme in medieval social, cultural, intellectual, legal, and political history, 500-1300.        |
| HST 483       | Seminar in Modern European History (W) | A specific problem or theme in European social, political, cultural, or economic history since 1300.                   |
| HST 484       | Seminar in African History (W)         | Issues in African social, political, cultural, and environmental history.  |
| HST 485       | Seminar in Asian History (W)           | Intensive study of a specific problem or theme in the social, political, economic, or cultural history of Asia.        |
| HST 486       | Seminar in Latin American History (W)  | A specific problem or theme in the social, cultural, economic, and political history of Latin America.                 |
| HST 487       | Seminar in Comparative History (W)     | Analysis of themes or problems from different cultures and countries.  |
| HST 488       | Seminar in International Relations (W) | A specific problem or theme in the history of international relations.   |
| HST 489       | Seminar in Digital History (W)         | A specific problem or theme in history approached through digital research to create digital work product.             |

|                 |                      |   |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>HST 493</b>  | History Internship   | Domestic and international history and history education placements with educational institutions, museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, digital history programs, public agencies, legal firms and departments, non-profit agencies, and private businesses. |
| <b>HST 495</b>  | History Harvest      | Identification, collection, and digitization of oral histories and historical artifacts in the local community. Family heirlooms, lived experiences of everyday people, and stories passed down through generations. Emphasis on digital history techniques.          |
| <b>HST 499H</b> | Senior Honors Thesis | Individual research projects, supervised by a faculty member.   |

#### Human Development and Family Studies – HDFS

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|-----------------|--|--|
| <b>HDFS 406</b> | Practicum III: Capstone Experience (W)         | Guided learning experiences in a professional agency, use of theories and practices related to lesson planning and implementation, assessment, classroom environments. |
| <b>HDFS 424</b> | Student Teaching in an Early Childhood Program | Supervised teaching practicum. Planning, implementing, and evaluating an ecological educational program for children and their families.                               |
| <b>HDFS 493</b> | Internship                                     | Professional experience in a community organization.   |

#### Human Resources and Labor Relations – HRLR

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|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>HRLR 493</b> | Internship in Human Resources and Labor Relations             | Faculty-guided internship in field related to human resources and labor relations.                      |
| <b>HRLR 494</b> | Undergraduate Research in Human Resources and Labor Relations | Faculty-guided undergraduate research in disciplines encompassed in human resources and labor relations |

### Information Technology Management – ITM

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| ITM 444 | Information Technology Project Management | Practical training and experiences in design, testing, and launch of new information technologies and systems. |
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### Integrative Biology – IBIO

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| IBIO 390 | Practicum in Zoo/Aquarium Careers | Practical application of science, business and education methods through typical workdays with zoo professionals. |
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### Integrative Studies Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences – ISS

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|-----------|--|--|
| ISS 335A* | National Diversity and Change: United States (N) | Racial, ethnic, class, gender, and other forms of diversity in the United States. Systems of dominant-minority relations and forms of prejudice and discrimination. Scope of and responses to group inequalities. <b>*Required service-learning component.</b> |
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### James Madison College – MC

|            |                             |   |
|------------|-----------------------------|---|
| MC 400/401 | Field Experience-Internship | Practical internship experience with a public, private, or non-profit organization engaged in making, influencing, implementing, or analyzing policy relevant to college program. |
|------------|-----------------------------|---|

### Journalism-JRN

|         |                       |   |
|---------|-----------------------|---|
| JRN 493 | Journalism Internship | Supervised field experience at a professional media organization. Media related issues. |
|---------|-----------------------|---|

## Kinesiology – KIN

### KIN 492

Internship: Non-Physiologically Based

Professional internship in kinesiology under faculty supervision. Students are involved in community and corporate internships not including physiological testing of patients/clients.

### KIN 493

Internship: Physiologically Based

Professional internship in kinesiology under faculty supervision. Students are involved in clinical, rehabilitation, and corporate programs.

## Language, Learning and Teaching – LLT

### LLT 496

Practicum in Adult English as a Second Language Teaching

Practical experience in adult ESL teaching. Classroom observations, tutoring, teaching demonstrations, lesson planning, and materials development.

## Management – MGT

### MGT 493A

Sports Business: Internship

Supervised, professional work or internship experience in the field of sports business with intercollegiate athletics or professional sports associations, firms, leagues, organizations, teams or sports business and entertainment companies.

### MGT 493B

Sports Business: Fieldwork Seminar

Leadership in day-to-day operations, decision making, strategic planning alongside industry leader in sports business. Hands-on projects in intercollegiate athletics, professional sports or applicable associations, firms or leagues. Rotational exposure to unit(s) and/or executive(s) within organization.

## Museum Studies – MUSM

### MUSM 496

Museum Studies Internship

A capstone course consisting of supervised professional experience in learning environments such as museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and historic homes.

### Political Science – PLS

|          |                                       |   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| PLS 481H | Undergraduate Research Seminar        | Advanced research seminar for students in the political science program.  |
| PLS 490H | Honors Internship                     | Supervised participation in research or teaching.   |
| PLS 491H | Senior Honors Thesis                  | Original research and writing under direction of a faculty member.  |
| PLS 494  | Field Experience in Political Science | Supervised field work in several areas of study. It may involve internships with non-profit organizations or public agencies, or participation in survey research, political campaigns, or petition drives. |

### Psychology – PSY

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| PSY 372  | Psychological Innovations and Research II | Second course of a two-course sequence. Theoretical and technical background and direct involvement in a major psychological innovation or research project. |
| PSY 382  | Internship in Psychology                  | Internship employing knowledge and skills acquired in psychology courses.  |
| PSY 490  | Special Problems in Psychology            | Students work under direction of a faculty member on an experimental, theoretical, or applied problem.   |
| PSY 491  | Participation in Psychological Project    | Students participate in a psychological project under direction of a faculty member.   |
| PSY 497H | Senior Honors Project                     | Capstone experience in psychology for honors student's project thesis.   |
| PSY 499H | Senior Honors Thesis                      | Continuation of independent research with faculty supervision. Completion of senior honor thesis.  |

## Sociology – SOC

|         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| SOC 480 | Advanced Research Methods in Sociology | Advanced training in methodologies commonly used in specific sub-fields of sociology. |
| SOC 497 | Individual Research                    | Supervised individual research in sociology.  |
| SOC 498 | Sociology Internship                   | Practical experience with a public, private, or nonprofit organization.               |

## Social Science – SSC

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| SSC 199  | Community Engagement: Act Locally, Think Globally           | Methods and concepts from social and behavioral sciences applied to improve active community engagement. Field experiences.  |
| SSC 399  | Service Learning and Civic Engagement: Theory and Practice  | Civic engagement practices and theories. Impact of non-profit organizations, practices of engaged citizenship. Volunteer placements at civic organizations.  |
| SSC 493  | Social Science Internship                                   | Methods and concepts from social and behavioral sciences applied in career-related settings.   |
| SSC 493A | Social Science International Internship                     | Supervised international field experience in social science.   |
| SSC 494  | Undergraduate Research in Social Science                    | Faculty-guided undergraduate research in the social sciences.  |
| SSC 495  | Interdisciplinary Research Methods                          | Interdisciplinary research questions and methods. Practical and ethical issues involved with primary, qualitative research methodologies. Interdisciplinary/integrative approaches to producing knowledge. |
| SSC 499  | Capstone in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (W) | Integration and application of interdisciplinary methods, models, and theories in social science   |



### Social Work – SW

#### SW 494A

Social Work Field Education:  
Undergraduate Generalist  
Practice I

Professionally supervised generalist social work practice in approved community agencies and campus-based seminar. Integration and application of concepts in social work practice.

#### SW 494B

Social Work Field Education:  
Undergraduate Generalist  
Practice II

Continuation of professionally supervised generalist social work practice in approved community agencies and campus-based seminar. Integration and application of concepts in social work practice. Focus on writing skills for professional practice and career options.

### Teacher Education – TE

#### TE 494

Field Experience in Teacher  
Education

Supervised practical and/or observations in educational settings.

### Theatre – THR

#### THR 494

Musical Theatre Workshop

In depth experience in musical theatre performance; acting, voice, and dance concepts in a group study basis; improvisational rehearsal and performance technique.

### Urban and Regional Planning – URP

#### UP 494

Planning Practicum

Collection, analysis and synthesis of planning information for an established urban or regional area. Problem identification and alternative plan formulation.

**Undergraduate Studies – UGS**

|         |                         |  |
|---------|-------------------------|--|
| UGS 102 | Freshman Seminar Abroad | Introduction to scholarship and inquiry in global and international contexts. Special interdisciplinary-based topics focused to develop intercultural abilities and deepen understanding of global problems. Field trips required. |
|---------|-------------------------|--|

**Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures – WRA**

|         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| WRA 490 | The Rhetorical Accelerant of American Violence<br>Independent Study | The focus of this course is the interplay between rhetoric (social, political, digital, personal, etc.) and violence in American society. How do these two ideas interact? Does one worsen/cause the other? |
|---------|---|---|