EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Experiential Education is a carefully monitored, preplanned opportunity for active learning through internships, field studies, cooperative education, community service-learning, practica, cross-cultural programs, and other forms (see National Society for Experiential Education: NSEE). Based on input from this organization and standard practice, Brescia University guidelines include:

1. Goals that translate into measurable objectives must be established jointly by the program faculty, the student, and the organization or person on-site.
2. The student has the primary responsibility for securing the position from an institutionally-approved list; however, the faculty in the program area and the placement director may provide assistance.
3. The organization must provide a work supervisor who will help the student adapt to the work, evaluate the work performance, and support the learning.
4. The program area must have a system for evaluating work positions and individual work supervisors.
5. Experiential education may include paid positions, but not all positions will include payment. In certain areas payment is unethical.
6. The educational goals and objectives must be signed by the student, faculty sponsor, and work supervisor and be filed in the Office of the Academic Dean.
7. The faculty sponsor is responsible for preparing students for effective work and learning. This responsibility may be delegated, but the faculty member must assure that the preparation is provided.
8. The experiential education must include a process to assist students to learn from the experience. Acceptable approaches include seminars, telephone visits, written reports, journals, logs, simulation exercises, campus interviews, and work-site visits. All programs are encouraged to include some group activities, since a group process enhances reflection on the experience.
9. All Brescia University internships except those governed by external regulating agencies are required to have a minimum of 40 contact hours per credit hour received for the course.

In addition, summer experiential learning experiences at a distance of more than 100 miles from the University must have a person on-site who represents Brescia University and assumes the faculty supervisory responsibility.