

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.