

Is It Experiential Learning?

Quick reference for determining Co-Curricular vs. Experiential Learning credit

THE ONE-SENTENCE RULE

Experiential Learning requires sustained, active engagement over time — not a single moment of exposure.

If it's a one-time or drop-in experience, it's co-curricular, not Experiential Learning.

THE TWO-QUESTION TEST

1 Is it sustained?

Does it run over multiple sessions, weeks, or a full term — not a single event?

2 Is it active?

Does it require the student to actually *do* something — participate, produce, apply — not just attend or observe?

Q1: SUSTAINED?	Q2: ACTIVE?	RESULT
No	—	Co-Curricular
Yes	No	Co-Curricular
Yes	Yes	Experiential Learning

IN PRACTICE

ACTIVITY	SUSTAINED?	ACTIVE?	DECISION
Attending a guest lecture or speaker series	No	No	Co-Curricular
One-off workshop or training session	No	No	Co-Curricular
Series of workshops over a term, ending in a certificate	Yes	Yes	Experiential Learning
Weekly volunteering with no defined role or outcome	Yes	No	Co-Curricular
Semester-long service-learning project with a deliverable	Yes	Yes	Experiential Learning
Research assistantship over a semester or more	Yes	Yes	Experiential Learning

Always Counts as Experiential Learning — nationally recognized (AAC&U) regardless of the test above, when done with genuine engagement:

- Internships
- Undergraduate Research
- Study Abroad
- Service-Learning
- Capstone Projects
- Learning Communities
- First-Year Seminars
- ePortfolios

FOR STUDENTS

- Did this take place over several weeks or a term — not just one day?
- Did I have to actively do, build, practice, or produce something — not just show up and listen?

Both yes → Experiential Learning. Either no → Co-Curricular (still valuable, still countable — just not toward the Experiential Learning component).

FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Apply the two-question test using documented evidence of sustained and active engagement (session attendance, a completed project, a certificate, logged hours). Activities meeting both criteria are approved as Experiential Learning; those meeting only one are credited as co-curricular rather than denied outright.