



Strategic Planning Spring Forum March 9, 2017
APPLIED LEARNING PANEL

Title: Applied Learning: Possibilities & Challenges

Moderator:

- Stephen Arnold, Associate Dean, College of Health Professions
- Assisted by Amy Baker Schwiethale, Program Director, Musical Theater

Panelists:

- Jay Price, Chair, Department of History
- Sara Muzzy, Director, Student Academic Programs and Services
- Nancy Loosle, Director, Student Involvement
- Katherine (Katie) Cramer, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction

WSU Goal #1: Guarantee an applied learning or research experience for every student by each academic college.

*The purpose of this goal is to ensure that every student who graduates from Wichita State University experiences applied learning or translational research ... This goal will be a condition of graduation rather than merely an opportunity. Applied learning and research will be infused throughout students' educational experiences. Real world experience (experiential learning) that allows students to develop and apply their skill sets will be incorporated into the curriculum of each academic unit. This goal ... is the responsibility of each and every academic program to ensure that all students who come through their program apply their skill set in real world contexts. The achievement of this goal will look different in every program. This may seem like an obstacle for some. It is not—it is an opportunity. It is an opportunity to change our way of thinking and achieve our vision of being the model for applied learning and research. **Note:** Thesis and dissertation courses fit the applied learning definition and criteria.*

Definition:

Applied learning occurs when students develop knowledge, skills, and values from personal direct experiences that go beyond the traditional lecture or lab. Applied learning encompasses a variety of activities including service learning, undergraduate research, theses, dissertations, and other creative (e.g., live performances) and professional services (e.g., practicums, internships, clinical rotations, and cooperative education).

Criteria:

To be considered Applied Learning, the personal direct experience must fit the above definition and all the following criteria:

1. mirrors or embodies knowledge and practice in real world situations
2. prepares student for a career or post graduate education
3. involves development or creation of a work product, service, or idea
4. includes occupationally focused work
5. applies learned program skills
6. engages populations outside the classroom ¹

¹ the classroom refers to a setting where an instructor, specialist, or other authority adopts the role of expert, with the students as receptors of the experts' knowledge and experience