Strategic Planning Applied Learning or Research Experience Form

Complete form and attach to
University Curriculum Change Form for curriculum and program changes

Applied learning and research are critical elements of Wichita State University's strategic plan. This is articulated clearly in the vision—*"Wichita State University is internationally recognized as the model for applied learning and research"*—and in strategic goal 1—*"Guarantee an applied learning or research experience for every student by each academic program."*

An excerpt from the full version of the WSU strategic plan further explains the intent of goal 1:

> *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.*

To ensure fulfillment of goal 1, it is necessary to confirm that each student meets a college, department, or program graduation requirement that an applied learning or research experience is met through satisfactory completion of designated courses or experiences that meet a set of defined criteria. In 2015, the Strategic Planning Phase 2 Steering Committee, composed of faculty representation from every college, developed a definition and set of criteria for applied learning, as well as a process for documenting and measuring applied learning or research experiences at Wichita State University. The foundation for the definition and criteria for applied learning is the original strategic plan. The planning process from which the original strategic plan developed was a "bottom up" process, with representation and ideas from all areas of campus.

The form below provides a mechanism for documenting a substantive applied learning or research experience within your college, department, or program.

Recognizing that some programs can more quickly fulfill this goal than others, there are three planning horizons from which to choose. **Complete the contact information below and check the box that indicates your planning horizon** for guaranteeing an applied learning or research experience for your graduates.

College, Department, or Program _____

Name of contact person _____

Email of contact person _____

The above listed college, department, or program will implement an applied learning or research experience as a graduation requirement for its students:

☐ **now.** We plan to implement an applied learning or research experience as a graduation requirement for the Fall 2018 catalog. See attached proposal.
- Proposal Due: February 1, 2017

☐ **in one year**. We are very close but it will take us a year to develop a proposal to ensure all of our students graduate with an applied learning or research experience. The graduation requirement will be in place for the Fall 2019 catalog.
- Proposal Due: February 1, 2018

☐ **in two years.** It will take much thought and reflection to develop a proposal to ensure that all of our students graduate with an applied learning or research experience. The graduation requirement will be in place for the Fall 2020 catalog.
- Proposal Due: February 1, 2019

Describe requirements for the guaranteed Applied Learning or Research Experience.

To fulfill the requirements for a guaranteed Applied Learning or Research Experience in

_____[1] at WSU, each student that graduates from

_____[1] will complete the following program course requirements:

[Insert requirements to guarantee an Applied Learning or Research Experience for each graduate of this college, department, or program]

Note: Thesis and dissertation courses fit the applied learning definition and criteria. If a thesis or dissertation is a program requirement, the remainder of this form does not need to be completed.

Describe how the Applied Learning or Research Experience fits the definition of applied learning below:

Definition:
Applied learning or research 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).

[Insert description of how the requirements fit the applied learning definition]

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[1] insert name of college, department, or program

Describe how the Applied Learning or Research Experience fits the six applied learning criteria below:

Criteria:
To be considered Applied Learning or Research, 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 [2]

Note: Other experiential opportunities that fit the definition of applied learning may be submitted for consideration. Attach explanation of exception to be considered.

Criterion	Description of how the required experience meets the criterion
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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[2] 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

Strategic Planning Applied Learning or Research Experience
Routing Sheet

A. Date initiated by faculty _____

B. Program Name _____

C. Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee:

☐ **Approved**

☐ **Not Approved**

Academic Affairs Committee Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

Comments from Academic Affairs Committee: