

## Aerospace Engineering: Non-Thesis Option Applied Learning Activity

### Background

Every student graduating from WSU must have an applied learning experience, with the following 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).*

Furthermore, to be considered applied learning, the experience must satisfy all of 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*

Aerospace Engineering (AE) Master of Science (MS) students completing the Thesis or Directed Project option satisfy applied learning expectations.

*This document outlines applied learning requirements for MS students who select the Non-Thesis (coursework only) option.*

### MS Non-Thesis Option Requirements

Along with an exit exam, Non-Thesis option students must also successfully complete an Applied Learning Activity (ALA) by enrolling in a 0-credit hour applied learning course with an AE professor. The ALA is a significant effort, equivalent to 40-hours work over a semester, but not as involved as a Thesis or Directed Project.

A final written report is not needed, but a public, formal, properly scheduled, and professional quality presentation is required. Potential presentation settings include, but are not limited to:

- An AE department graduate seminar
- Graduate school sponsored forums (e.g., GRASP)
- The College of Engineering Open House

ALA topic selection is flexible, but it must be in the student's focus area (e.g., structures, aerodynamics), at graduate level, and approved by the 0-credit hour applied learning course instructor prior to enrollment. ALA topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Research work completed with the AE faculty member
- A comprehensive literature review on a relevant topic
- A project related to a student's employment

### Evaluation

The applied learning course instructor completes an ALA Review Form evaluating the final presentation's depth, breadth, and quality relative to WSU's applied learning definition and criteria (use dedicated form).

**Review Form**  
**Aerospace Engineering Non-Thesis Option Applied Learning Activity**

The 0-credit hour ALA course instructor evaluates the student's presentation and submits this form to the AE Graduate Coordinator.

(Circle response)

1. Did the student develop knowledge and skills that go beyond the traditional lecture or lab content?

YES NO

2. Did the activity mirror or embody knowledge and practice in real world situations?

YES NO

3. Did the activity prepare the student for a career or postgraduate education?

YES NO

4. Did the activity involve development or creation of a work product, service, or idea?

YES NO

5. Did the activity include occupationally focused work?

YES NO

6. Did the student apply learned program skills?

YES NO

7. Did the activity engage populations outside the classroom?

YES NO

8. Does the ALA represent at least 40-hours of effort?

YES NO

*To meet WSU applied learning requirements all of the above criteria must be marked YES.*

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Date:

ALA Course CRN, Semester, & Year:

ALA Presentation Title & Venue:

AE ALA Instructor Name Printed:

AE ALA Instructor Signature: